The Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin
Published quarterly by the Arboretum Foundation
for the Washington Park Arboretum

Washington Park Arboretum
The Arboretum is a 230-acre living museum displaying internationally renowned collections of oaks, conifers, camellias, Japanese maples, hollies and a profusion of woody plants from the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Aesthetic enjoyment gracefully co-exists with science in this spectacular urban green space on the shores of Lake Washington. Visitors come to learn, explore, relax or reflect in Seattle's largest public garden.

The Washington Park Arboretum is managed cooperatively by the University of Washington and Seattle Parks and Recreation; the Arboretum Foundation is its major support organization.

Graham Visitors Center
Open 10 AM—4 PM daily; holidays, 12 N—4 PM. Closed Thanksgiving and the Friday after Christmas and New Year's Day.

Arboretum Foundation
The Arboretum Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1935 to ensure stewardship for the Washington Park Arboretum, and to provide horticultural leadership for the region. The Foundation provides funding and volunteer support for the maintenance, development and renovation of Arboretum gardens and collections and for educational programs. Volunteers operate the Gift Shop, conduct major fund-raising events, and further their gardening knowledge through study groups and hands-on work in the greenhouse or grounds.

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ABOVE: The Arboretum contains one of America’s largest collections of hollies. This is one of numerous variegated cultivars of Ilex aquifolium (English holly), a species that boasts endless variations in the size and color of leaves and berries. Holly plants are male or female, with only the females and bisexual plants producing berries.

ON THE COVER: Sorbus rehderiana (Rehder’s mountain ash), a native of Western China, announces spring with a profusion of creamy-white flowers. By summer, trees are covered with berries from white to yellow to pink. In autumn, Rehder’s mountain ash glows with multiple, feathery orange-red leaflets on each leaf, and retains its rosy berries well into winter, much to the delight of the resident birds. See Sorbus rehderiana in the Arboretum at map grid 25-4E.
FROM THE

Executive Director

The winter is another busy season for the volunteers and staff of the Arboretum Foundation. Preparations for our participation in the Northwest Flower and Garden Show are well underway.

The Arboretum Display Garden attracts many talented designers eager to participate in this event. This year we are pleased to have Lorene Forkner and her colleagues at Fremont Gardens as our partners. Their design, “A Winter’s Passing (in the Garden),” is sure to be a visual and horticultural treat.

A crack team of volunteers and staff work with the designers to translate the finished design into a working plan for construction and installation. The transformation at the Convention Center from a bare concrete floor to a fresh and beautiful garden is truly amazing.

The Arboretum Foundation membership and information booth, located upstairs at the show, has a new look. Thanks to Garden Solutions of Seattle, the volunteers and staff will have an inviting gazebo from which to provide membership information and answer questions.

In addition to our Garden Show participation, we are pleased to present our thirteenth annual Preview Party at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. This signature event is held the evening before the Show opens and has become an important annual fundraising event for the Foundation. Countless volunteer and staff hours go into making this special event a success. We want to particularly thank Molbak’s, Inc. for its generous sponsorship of this party.

Over the years, numerous people have supported us in a variety of ways. The success of all our events, and the number of volunteers involved, are continuing proof that the tradition of stewardship and volunteerism is alive and well at the Arboretum Foundation.

Deborah Andrews, Executive Director
Arboretum Foundation

Hamamelis line the pathway to the Joseph A. Witt Winter Garden.
IN THE

Washington Park Arboretum

Education

After a full week of training for volunteers—Saplings, tour guides, seed exchange and others—our autumn programs began in earnest. We had so many requests for tours that we plan to begin training a month earlier next year.

Saplings brings many teachers to the Arboretum for the first time, so we are helping with their orientation. Many are reserving Explorer Packs after the program.

Saplings guides now can obtain credit through the University of Washington, and we currently have four students involved.

The popular Arboretum Adventures and Story Vine weekend programs, geared toward families, appeared monthly during the fall.

Beginning this winter, we are recruiting middle school students through local community centers, schools and youth groups to work on community service projects, supervised by grounds and curation staff. We are proposing a day camp for this age group next summer, assisted by Teens for Recreation and Environmental Conservation (TREC).

Looking forward to spring, we will host a Teacher Development Workshop on our “Plant Growth and Development” curriculum, in conjunction with several educational agencies. Also planned is a new Saplings curriculum, “Native Plants and People.” Designed by local ethnobotanist Heidi Bohan Bennett, it includes the local Salish people.

Curation and Collections

We continue major renovation of the Pinetum, which began several years ago and is supported by $10,000 from the Arboretum Foundation. Under Collections Manager Randall Hitchin’s leadership, the project includes updating our maps and tagging more than 300 plants. Last fall, Horticulturist Christina Pfeiffer and the grounds staff removed 25 trees—both large and small—as well as some native underbrush. They ground stumps and improved soil,
while Senior Gardener John Candy and the City staff re-groomed paths. Twenty-two new pines, from our Union Bay nursery, were planted.

Since pines are one of the major collections in the Arboretum, we embarked on a pro-active public relations effort, including a public workshop, radio, TV, web page, and neighborhood leaflets. This is a great example of the type of renovation project that needs to be done.

The Arboretum Foundation’s Native Plant Group is working with Christina Pfeiffer to identify several areas that can showcase native plants. Foundation volunteer Rita Cloney was instrumental in getting this project off the ground and we are pleased with the cooperative effort between the adults (who supervise) and the TREC students (who do the work). The project includes general cleaning up and plant labeling.

Recreation

We are indebted to the City for replacing dangerous pavers on the south and west patios of the Graham Visitors Center. Several electrical conduits have been added there to increase safety and enhance aesthetics.

Travels

Christina Pfeiffer attended the Western Region of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta meeting in Berkeley, California. I visited the Yo Yo Ma Garden in Toronto; the Niagara School of Horticulture Garden and Royal Botanical Garden in Hamilton, Ontario; the Holden Arboretum in Mentor, Ohio; and the Chicago Botanic Garden and Morton Arboretum in Chicago during the International Plant Propagators Society Tour in September, and continue to serve as executive officer of this 3,000-member organization.

John A. Wott, Director
Washington Park Arboretum
HORT 101
Test your horticultural vocabulary
with these terms used in this issue!

COTYLEDON, (kōt’l-ēd’n), noun
The first leaves of the embryo of a seed-bearing plant which, upon germination, either remain in the seed or emerge. Also called seed leaf.

EMBRYO, (ēm’brē-o’), noun
The minute, rudimentary plant contained within a seed.

INFLORESCENCE, (in’fla-rēs’ans) noun
The existence of one or more flowers on a stem.

LINNAEAN SYSTEM
The system of taxonomic classification and binomial nomenclature for plants and animals originated by Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778).

PETIOLE, (pēt’é-ōl’), noun
The stalk by which a leaf is attached to a stem. Also called leafstalk.

PINNATE, (pīn’āt’), adjective
Resembling a feather; having parts or branches arranged on each side of a central axis. Generally refers to leaves.

RACEME, (rā-sēm’), noun
An inflorescence having stalked flowers arranged singly along an elongated, unbranched axis, as in the lily of the valley or Wisteria.

STIPULE, (stīp’yool), noun
One of the usually small, paired appendages at the base of a leafstalk in certain plants, such as roses, beans and azaras.

SUBTEND, (səb-tēnd’), verb, transitive
To underlie so as to enclose or surround: flowers subtended by leafy bracts.

VASCULAR, (vas’kya-lar), adjective
Characterized by vessels that carry or circulate fluids, such as blood or sap, through the body of an animal or a plant.

WARDIAN CASE, noun
A portable cold-frame used by British plant collectors to ferry live plants back to Mother England. Popular in the Victorian era (1800s), these cases often were stored on the decks of China Clipper ships.

Dr. Nathaniel Ward’s case, a large-scale adaptation of his caterpillar jar, was used successfully in 1834 to ship difficult plants to and from the Antipodes.
(Reprinted from The Plant Hunters, by Tyler Whittle.)
Foundation Donors Rescue “Drowning” Sorbus Collection

Brian O. Mulligan would be proud. His namesake collection of Sorbus (mountain ash) in the Arboretum has been renovated, regraded, restored and replenished—a year-long project that will ensure that these magnificent trees and shrubs will grow and thrive for many generations to enjoy.

Mr. Mulligan, long-time Arboretum Director, favored Sorbus above all other species and personally tended the collection in the fifties and sixties. The 87 kinds of trees and shrubs, some of which are the Arboretum’s oldest and most important, comprise one of the largest Sorbus collections in the U.S. and provide a spectacular and colorful display of flowers, leaves and fruit throughout the year.

Yet this remarkable grove of mountain ashes was in deep trouble. More specifically, deep water. As upland natives, mountain ashes cannot thrive and survive in continually wet soil. The drainage system that had been installed more than 50 years ago had been failing for several years, allowing standing water in the collection through much of each year. Most of the trees experienced stress and some didn’t survive the soggy conditions.

The Arboretum Foundation recognized it couldn’t stop the rain, but it did the next best thing: identified the Mulligan Sorbus collection

*The Brian O. Mulligan Sorbus collection comprises one of the largest collections of mountain ashes in the United States. Here are examples of Sorbus throughout the year:

* Left: Sorbus randaiensis in May  * Inset: Before the renovation, a deteriorating drainage system causes standing water in the Sorbus collection.

* Top left: Sorbus devoniensis fruit in November  * Top right: Sorbus vilmorinii fruit in October
Memories of Mountain Ash

by Daniel J. Hinkley

Of many autumn scenes I have witnessed in the mountains of North America, China, Japan, Nepal and Korea, those compositions most emblazoned in my memories have amongst them a mountain ash with luscious ripened fruit or the panoply of autumn foliage. It was, however, long before I first came to observe them in the wilds that I had come to appreciate the extremes of physical expression they, as a single genus of plants, possessed.

As a graduate student doing research at the Washington Park Arboretum in Seattle, I would be drawn from the path time and again in mid-winter, as the brilliant crops of pink, white, or deep red fruit would shine, so much like winter flowers that I was certain they were cherries or plums in befuddled blossom. In the perpetual mist of a Seattle winter, these resplendent moments remain seared in memory, as this was a time in which I learned plants at a heady pace, and learned to recognize those that would ultimately become part of my once and future garden. And even in those earlier years of my education, I knew that the mountain ashes were those that would find a home with me when I, myself, found a home.

Now in my garden, I have garnered a large collection of species, yet it speaks highly of this remarkable group of shrubs and trees that the uninitiated might never suspect that I have the collection at all. The earliest deciduous tree to push into leaf on a yearly basis is Sorbus caloneura, with bronzed, simple leaves and lovely upturned clusters of white flowers. One of the smallest shrubs in my entire garden is Sorbus poteriifolia, with prostrate stems carrying tiny pinnate foliage and relatively huge, blushed, pearly fruit. The bountiful crops of milky fruit of Sorbus forrestii shine at dusk in a deepening winter while providing a feast for flickers, robins, Stellar’s jays and varied thrush when the first snows arrive in successful accumulation. In flower, foliage, fruit and often, a demure size, I cannot think of a more delightful and truly ornamental assemblage of trees to select from.

Dan Hinkley is co-founder of Heronswood Nursery in Kingston, WA, and currently serves as Director of the Heronswood Collection, owned by W. Alee Burpee.
GARDEN TALK:
The Name Game

by Marty Wingate

Botanical nomenclature can seem confusing, annoying and difficult to understand; even the more learned in the horticultural world will, at times, shrug their shoulders and sigh at the latest word that one genus has been combined with another or a name that was changed once has been changed back again. "One of the liveliest and most predictable subjects of gardeners' conversation," wrote Brent Elliott in The New Plantsman (March, 1994; p. 20), "is the problem of changes in plant names, instituted for mysterious reasons by interfering botanists."

Yet, we would all agree, although some reluctantly, that botanical Latin creates an international language that, at its best, clarifies and simplifies any horticultural pursuits. I can look at a French gardening magazine and, without being able to read more than a "Comment cela?" I can figure out that an article is about the dove tree, Davidia involucrata. And how appropriate, because Davidia involucrata is named after Abbé Armand David, a French missionary and plant collector in the 19th century.

Plants can be named after many things: people, places, colors, leaf shape, growing habit, or even peculiarity. Join us for a brief look at botanical nomenclature and, specifically, the origin of some of the plant names referenced in this issue.

Plants that are named for people abound; here are a few from this issue:

*Drimys winteri*—This South American shrub, and its family (Winteraceae), are named for Captain William Winter, who sailed with Francis Drake in the 16th century. On their voyages, Winter collected bark for medicinal and culinary purposes.

*Nothofagus dombeyi*—The Southern beech was named for Joseph Dombey (he has a genus named after him, too—Dombeya). Dombey was an 18th-century French botanist who collected plants in South America.

*Fuchsia*—Leonhart Fuchs, a German herbalist and botanical illustrator who lived in the 16th century, had this genus named after him.

*Wisteria*—Although the last name is spelled differently, the genus is named for Caspar Wistar, a professor of anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania, who lived in the 18th century.

Azaras: A New Look for the Northwest Garden

by Sean Hogan

Nutmeg, maybe with a touch of cinnamon—that is what drew me to my first Azara on a chill March day at the University of British Columbia Botanic Garden. It was a sturdy shaving brush of a tree with creamy pompon flowers of a scent that reminded me of a warm kitchen with something wonderful about to appear from the oven. It was Azara microphylla, one of the most useful small garden trees, and a pleasant relief from the dearth of broad-leaved evergreen trees easily available to Northwest gardeners.

A genus of about ten species in the family Flacourtiaceae, Azara occupies the mountain slopes and cool rain forests of Chile and western Argentina with an outlier in Uruguay and southwest Brazil. In most of these habitats, extreme heat is rarely experienced, and very low temperatures are just as rare. Sound familiar? Let’s take a hit or miss look at the “Azara experience” here in the Pacific Northwest.

Azara alpina is one of the least cultivated species. At mid to high mountain slopes in Chile’s southern Andes, it forms a thickety shrub to small tree from under 3 to about 10 feet in height. Small leaves of less than one-half by one inch line the spiky branches and even smaller, creamy yellow flowers are
borne sporadically in early spring. *Azara alpina* does present potential for great hardiness, but so does sagebrush, and they probably would present about the same appearance in western Washington or Oregon gardens. This is a plant for that very special collector—or pollinator—in your life.

*Azara dentata* is quite an attractive large shrub or small tree of 10 to 15 feet, but it seems to be one of the least hardy to cold below temperatures in the mid-teens, or with desiccating wind. The leaves are oval, toothed and slightly pubescent, with a stipule or leaf-like flair from the petiole. Clusters of yellow, fourth-inch puffballs appear in mid-spring and have a honey-sweet smell. Plants in Portland appear to be in it for the long run but specimens on the Oregon coast seem more at home.

*Azara serrata* is horticulturally rather similar to *A. dentata* but with somewhat longer, shinier leaves. The flowers appear in rounded clusters and lie atop one to two inch stalks, looking as if they're about to leap from the branch ends. So far, *A. serrata* seems to be a little tougher, having not been bothered by a Portland winter in the last six years and producing Big-Bird-yellow flowers every April.

*Azara integrifolia* holds great promise throughout the western seaboard. A small to medium tree of 15 to more than 35 feet, it is rounded to vase-shaped with a pleasing branch structure and silvery gray bark. The leaves are nearly entire (not as serrated), one to two inches long and sharply oval (if that is possible!), and a rather shiny deep green. The stipules are quite large and make a nice

The richly scented flowers of *Azara integrifolia* bloom from late January to early March.

The fruit of *Azara lanceolata*, which will turn dark blue as it matures, emerges from spectacular yellow puffball-like flowers.
flourish at their base. The flowers are richly sweet-scented and deep yellow with a teensy bit of purple in the stamens. All this happens from the end of January to early March. Another attractive feature is the white-blushed, pale blue fruit that lasts into the following autumn. A very nice planting can be found in the Chilean section of the Washington Park Arboretum. A variegated form has also been around for some time as an arching shrub to about four feet with leaves a little broader than typical and striped with custard yellow, aging to pink or orange.

*Azara celastrina* is essentially a large shrub to 10 or 12 feet tall and sometimes even wider. Inhabiting relatively dry sites further north than most of the pack, in the Andean foothills of central Chile, it is often the largest woody plant in a community dominated by small spiny shrubs and cacti. The leaves are an attractive gray-green and rather narrow with a nice flair toward the base. They rarely exceed one-and-a-half by one-half inches. The flowers are small, lightly scented and of a peculiar blue-black, but the real reasons to try it in the garden are the overall lush aspect of possibly the most drought hardy *Azara*, and the almost pewter color the shrub reflects on a bright day. *Azara celastrina* is another plant with too little trial, but three years in Portland has not proven a challenge.

*Azara uruguayensis* comes from, indeed (!), Uruguay and adjacent Brazil and should be typed into a computer as few times as possible. It is a larger plant, often exceeding 20-feet in height. The leaves are often as large as 3 by 2 inches and very shiny with only slight serration; the subtending stipules are nearly an inch in length, giving the tree a very rich texture. The flowers are not outstanding or easily seen above the leaves, but the fruit appears in large clusters, blushed rose or blue. This is a fine plant for coastal California or Oregon, but not well tested inland or further north.

*Azara lanceolata* straddles the lower Andes of both Chile and Argentina. It can reach nearly 20 feet in height and matures into a very pleasing vase shape with horizontal side branches. The leaves, about 3 inches long and narrow with round accessory stipules at the base, are evenly toothed and shiny. To top off what is already an attractive plant, *A. lanceolata* just might have the most striking flowers of the genus: large yellow puffballs held above the slightly drooping leaves. The fruit is dark blue and smaller than that of the others. Of course, with such a great plant must come a catch. Yep, it's not as hardy as one would prefer. In two of the last six winters, *A. lanceolata* has had its little buds nipped right off, and in December 1998, the leaves went along with them. A beautiful *A. lanceolata* can be seen in the garden of Heronswood Nursery where careful siting and the cover of conifers offer protection.

*Azara petiolaris* is another Chilean shrub or small tree to about 15 to 20 feet. The leaves are a bright green and the toothiest of any. The flowers are a pale, creamy yellow but with very long stamens that give it an elegant appearance around April. The fruit is nearly black. *Azara petiolaris* is best grown as a “wall plant” (a plant that grows best with the protection of a wall) in the Northwest, reportedly tingeing below 20 degrees F for any length of time, although this has not occurred yet in northeast Portland on a west-facing wall.

"The flowers look as if they are about to leap from the branch ends."

©
The last is certainly the best, or at least the most useful of the azaras. *Azara microphylla* holds its place as having a nearly unique texture in Northwest evergreens aside from a couple of *Notbohmugus* species. The upright form with undulating horizontal branches is graced with small rounded leaves so shiny they always appear to have been dampened by a passing shower. Although it seems happiest and most graceful with light shade, it grows well, if not more densely, in full sun. At 20 to 30 feet in height, it makes a superb and fine-grained background, or specimen, tree. The flowers add delight and surprise to a winter day. Only the winter of 1990 did any appreciable damage to specimens in the lowlands of the Northwest, and the plants quickly recovered. A variegated form makes a beautiful, almost weeping, specimen that matures a bit smaller and benefits from some light shade. It is nearly as frost hardy.

As the selection of broad-leaved evergreens available in the Pacific Northwest increases, *Azara* will be among the top choices. Azaras, from the old standbys such as the subtle *Azara dentata* to the more brazen *Azara serrata*, should pop up frequently when a fine-leaved plant or a good background is needed. The other species should certainly be tried and the best garden forms selected. Some of us really like the look of sagebrush.

Sean Hogan is the Director of Collections at Portland’s Hoyt Arboretum and the curator of that city’s new Chinese garden. With partner Parker Sanderson, Hogan owns Cistus Design, a new retail nursery on Sauvie Island, 10 miles north of Portland, that specializes in weird and appropriate plants for the west—including azaras.

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### Celebrate the Promise of Spring

**2001 Northwest Flower & Garden Show**

**Preview Party**

*Benefiting the Washington Park Arboretum*

**Tuesday, February 6, 2001**

Washington State Convention & Trade Center

5–6 PM—Benefactor/Patron Reception & Preview

6–9:30 PM—Supporter Preview

Enjoy the spectacular *New Paths* display gardens before the show opens to the public. Delicious hors d’oeuvres, cocktails, entertainment and a silent auction.

Benefactor and Patron champagne reception and first view of the gardens—beginning at 5 PM

**Tickets:**

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*Arboretum Foundation*

Call (206) 325-4510 for tickets and information

[www.orgsites.com/wa/arboretumfoundation](http://www.orgsites.com/wa/arboretumfoundation)
Late in 1999, while many people were upgrading software and making backup copies of their hard drives, I was making Y2K preparations of a very different sort. With the computer meltdown of the century looming, I was busy gathering camping gear, plane tickets and a passport to prepare for a month of botanical field work. During January 2000, I had the privilege of participating in a research project based in Magallanas, Chile, the most southerly part of that country, which includes the fabled land known as Tierra del Fuego.

Our research group included faculty, students and staff from the University of Connecticut, the University of North Carolina, the University of Washington and our host institution, la Universidad de Magallanas. Our research activities focused on bird pollination behavior, pollination biology and regional floristics. I contributed to the floristics portion of the project, collecting seed, spore and herbarium specimens from a diverse array of vascular plants. A number of these collections show considerable horticultural potential and may well prove worthy of introduction to the nursery trade. Plants raised from these collections will be evaluated at the Washington Park Arboretum.

Lomatia ferruginea, here growing on a wind-swept bluff in southern Chile, may someday have a greater presence in Northwest gardens.
Arboretum and may become part of its permanent living collection.

The herbarium collection is housed at the Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium, part of the University of Washington Herbarium. Duplicate herbarium sets were deposited at the University of Connecticut and la Universidad de Magallanas herbaria.

Why Chile?

Some may think the flora of Chile has been studied adequately and that additional plant exploration is superfluous. After all, numerous collectors have worked there, including William Lobb in the 1840s, Richard Pearce in the 1860s, Harold Comber in the 1920s and Clement Hamilton (former Director of the U.W. Center for Urban Horticulture) in the 1980s. More recently, one of the Northwest’s favorite horticultural sons, Dan Hinkley, has continued the work of earlier plant collectors. So why bother? What more could be found? In fact, a great deal.

Gone is the era when plant explorers sent home steamer chests of pressed specimens and Wardian cases of living plants, each one full of species new to science and cultivation. Nevertheless, new species continue to be discovered. Perhaps the most widely reported in recent years is *Wollemia nobilis* (Wollemi pine), a new conifer genus and species in the Araucaria family. This 1994 discovery was all the more remarkable because the habitat of this plant is located only 120 miles outside of Sydney, Australia.

Why collect?

Beyond the occasional excitement of a newly discovered taxa, there are many described species of significant horticultural merit that are not in cultivation or only scarcely so. Look no further than the pages of your nursery catalogs. Enterprising nursery men and women continue to travel to remote regions in search of plants not yet established in cultivation. Yucca Do (Waller, Texas), Heronswood (Kingston, Washington), and Plant Delights (Juniper Level, North Carolina), are only three of many nurseries that have had an active role in plant exploration and introduction over the past decade.

Nor can it be said that the book has been written for species currently in cultivation, even for many familiar garden plants. Several plant introductions from the last century were made from narrow seed collections, even from a single plant. Yet the breadth of genetic variability is vital, and much can be gained by collecting from different areas across the geographic range of a species. The motto of the plant collector might well be, “Cast your net widely.”

**Chilean discoveries**

Indeed, there are good reasons for continued plant collection. Among the discoveries from our Chile trip that may prove garden worthy is *Drimys winteri*. This beautiful broadleaf evergreen tree produces sprays of white flowers in summer. I was delighted to stand in groves of these small trees, drinking in the cinnamon fragrance emitted by their foliage. While this species is sometimes seen in gardens around the Puget Sound, it can be vulnerable to winter damage. The area where I collected seed of *Drimys winteri* experiences
The author, "way too high" in a Nothofagus antarctica, collecting herbarium specimens. "Rubber boots are not good for climbing trees," he reports.

some snow each winter and an occasional heavy snowfall. I am hopeful that plants from this southern provenance will exhibit greater cold tolerance and resistance to snow loading here than previously cultivated forms. Only garden trials will tell.

Another plant is Lomatia ferruginea which is rarely seen in gardens and perhaps unjustly so. This large shrub or small tree has pinnate, evergreen leaves with each segment again divided, giving the foliage an elegant, fern-like quality. Set against this foliage are quirky, star-shaped flowers of red, yellow and white. Regrettably, this species is relatively frost sensitive, and to my knowledge, it has never been a permanent feature in any Seattle garden.

While Fuchsia magellanica is a familiar garden plant, including some pale-flowered cultivars, it was extremely exciting to encounter a form with white sepals and violet petals in the wild. This species is a common understory shrub in rich, moist southern beech forests, dominated by the massive canopies of Nothofagus pumilio. North of the Strait of Magellan, I encountered many thousands of these plants, all but one displaying the typical, brilliant fuchsia blossoms. This white-flowered beauty has been successfully propagated by root cuttings and awaits garden trials. Its southern provenance promises hardiness, while its distinctive flower color commends it to the gardener as well as the plant breeder.

If Acaena magellanica is available in commerce, I have not seen it. Yet this spreading, herbaceous plant became a familiar sight, appearing almost everywhere we traveled in Magallanas. The species appears to thrive in disturbed sites, including river sand bars and roadsides, an ecological niche that suggests it may have invasive tendencies. Thorough garden evaluation will resolve this concern before plants are introduced to the nursery trade. There is, however, no doubt concerning the decorative merits of this plant. Each feathery, pinnate leaf is composed of 11 to 17 circular, blue-gray leaflets. The pewtery foliage forms a dense mat, four to eight inches high and several feet across. Although the flowers are of little significance, the fruits are crimson balls that dance above the foliage in summer. Each fruiting head is composed of hundreds of finely barbed bristles that can cling to fabric or your pet sheep— not a problem so long as you don’t walk through your garden in stocking feet.

These plants are a small sample of the horticultural possibilities at the southern tip of Chile and a minuscule sample of what exists in the plant kingdom. Whether plant exploration is in the backyard or the outback, the miraculous interactions among living organisms and between organisms and their environment result in the selection and expression of endless variation. And our gardens are the better for it. As gardeners, we simply must keep our eyes open, and in horticulture as in life, remember to “cast our nets widely.”

Randall Hitchin is the Registrar/Collections Manager for the Washington Park Arboretum.

For photographic highlights of this expedition, visit: http://staff.washington.edu/rcb/main.htm
IN THE COLLECTION:

Luma apiculata

BY LYNN SCHUELER

During a walk in the Arboretum last fall, I noticed a pretty little shrub covered with tiny white flowers just off the path near Loderi Valley. Curious to learn what was blooming so prolifically at that time of year, I checked the tag and was surprised to see that the Arboretum had just acquired it.

Luma apiculata, formerly known as Myrtus luma and a member of the Myrtaceae or myrtle family, was introduced to cultivation in 1844. This native of the temperate forests of Chile has long been grown in mild regions of Britain and especially Ireland, but it is not well known in the U.S.

In most gardens, Luma apiculata forms an evergreen, medium to large shrub, rarely reaching 30\(\text{'}\) tall. Yet, older specimens growing in warm, moist gardens in Ireland have reached 50 feet high and wide. When grown in sun, it has a compact, bushy, columnar form and is smaller than when grown in partial shade, where it will mature with a more tree-like habit. Partially shaded by larger trees, such as our native Douglas fir, Luma apiculata will show off its beautiful, flaking, cinnamon-colored bark that peels to reveal a cream or gray underbark.

Luma apiculata flowers over a long period from late summer to early autumn. The cup-shaped white blossoms, to 1/2 inch across, have four petals and an attractive white powder-puff of stamens in the center. They are lightly fragrant, especially noticeable on a warm September day. Spherical, dark purple berries follow the flowers.

Dr. Clement W. Hamilton, former Director of the UW Center for Urban Horticulture, participated in a seed-collecting trip to Chile in the late 1980s, where he admired Luma apiculata in its natural habitat. Later, he bought this plant for his own garden in Seattle where it grew on a sunny site to about seven feet tall and five feet wide. Dr. Hamilton’s Luma apiculata became part of the Arboretum’s collection in 2000, and now grows on a shadier site where it will eventually be pruned to show more of its trunk.

A slice of Chile in Seattle

The native forests of Chile are highly diverse in the types and numbers of species of plants and animals found there. Because of Chile’s geographic isolation, many of these species are not found elsewhere; yet the Arboretum has been able to include some of Chile’s forest trees in its collection. Thriving in our Pacific maritime climate are Nothofagus dombeyi, Laureliopsis philippiana, Weinmannia triebosperma, Dasyphillium diacanthoides, and Embodruid coccineum, along with Eucryphia cordifolia and Genuina avellana, which sometime miss the mild winters of their native country and are cut back by frost.

Only those Puget Sound gardeners in the warmest areas will find growing these plants satisfactory. Luma apiculata is considered reliably hardy in Zones 8b-10, and is generally considered hardy to about 15 degrees F. Grow it in moderately fertile, well-drained soil, in an area protected from cold, drying winter winds. Give the new plant summer water until it is established (one or two years).

Lynn Schueler is a member of the Arboretum Foundation and is co-chair of the Foundation’s Pat Calvert Greenhouse.
Wisteria: A Plant You Might Just Hate to Love

by Ciscoe Morris

I have a love/hate relationship with the wisteria growing on a trellis over my patio. In the spring, there are few plants that can match the grandeur of its flowers, hanging like fragrant jewels from the twisting branches. Later in the season, the pinnate leaves form an attractive canopy over our patio, providing cool, light shade in the heat of summer. In fall, the leaves turn a beautiful shade of yellow before falling, to reveal the haunting beauty of the twisted, gnarled branches in the winter landscape.

Wisteria vines must have adequate drainage to thrive. Given this, they are long-lived plants—some wisterias in Asia are centuries old—and they have few pest or disease problems. However, don't let that pretty face fool you. Wisteria can have a nasty personality.

Watch out!

I became aware of wisteria’s wicked disposition when I was in the market for a house some years ago. A friend told me about a house near Lake Washington, for sale cheap. When I got there
to check it out, it didn't take long to find out why the price was so low. There was a wisteria on each side of the house, each one a hundred years old, that had picked up the three-story house and pulled it off its foundation! We are talking serious vine here. Those little tendrils that begin so small are capable of growing 25 or more feet per year. Wisteria has been known to rip siding and roofing from houses, and even strangle tall trees. The attractive, twisting vines often destroy the structures built to support them. They become extremely heavy and exert the pressure of a python, crushing all but the strongest beams. Keep it pruned or it will take over your garden—or worse.

Wisteria is not a plant for the lazy gardener. This vine requires an enormous amount of work to keep it beautiful, and more importantly, manageable.

Having said all of this, I admit I would not trade the wisteria that is growing over my patio for anything. No other vine can match the beauty and fragrance of the flowers, provide such great fall color, and look so magnificent in winter. The key is to train the wisteria correctly when you plant it, then constantly prune to keep it from becoming a “kudzudian” monster. This requires an incredible amount of work. If you still decide to try a wisteria, I must warn you: Well before the end of summer, you may find yourself cussing and whining about the misery it is causing you.

**Varieties and hybrids**

There are several varieties in the genus *Wisteria* to choose from. A member of the pea family, *Wisteria* has six species, including a North American native, but generally only the kinds from China and Japan, along with a few hybrids, are readily available at local nurseries. *Wisteria sinensis*, the Chinese wisteria, is the most popular species, perhaps because the showy, foot-long, fragrant flower clusters open all at once, before the leaves emerge, putting on quite a show. It is the only wisteria that will bloom well in shade. The stems of Chinese wisteria twist in a counterclockwise direction.

*Wisteria floribunda*, commonly called Japanese wisteria, twines in a clockwise direction. The flowers, generally quite fragrant, are not as showy because they appear along with the leaves and open in succession, beginning at the base. The long flower stalks (known as racemes) on Japanese wisteria are considerably longer than those of Chinese. (The record length of a flower raceme on Japanese wisteria is almost six feet long!) I recommend growing Japanese wisteria on an overhead structure to allow the long, hanging flowers to drop unimpeded.

*Wisteria venusta*, a strong growing climber from Japan known as silky wisteria, has attractive downy leaves. Each slightly fragrant flower is quite large, but the racemes are about half as long as Chinese wisteria and open all at once when the leaves emerge.

*Wisteria x formosa* is a hybrid that also has attractive downy shoots, but little fragrance.
The pale pink flowers are about the same length as Chinese wisteria.

**Training your new vine**

Correct training from the beginning is the key to success. Select three vigorous stems and twist them around the support that the vine will climb. These stems will form the framework, and must be tied in to hold them in place. Be ruthless at removing all other growth. Never fight Momma Nature by trying to force the vine to twist in a direction other than the one in which it naturally grows. They will revert to their natural way, and will likely uproot the trellis and tie you to the structure in the process. Cut the top of the stems as soon as they reach the top of the trellis to promote the development of strong laterals. Again, be ruthless, allowing no more than three laterals to grow on each horizontal support. Twist the laterals around the beams, then tie them in. As the vine grows and matures, sublaterals, in the form of tendrils, will continually grow out of those that were selected to form the framework. A few of these sublaterals can be allowed to remain if they fit in with the overall design, however most of the tendrils should be removed to keep them from taking over your garden and ruining your house. Rather than totally removing unwanted tendrils, cut them back to six inches, a pruning method called “spur pruning.” This causes flower-bearing buds to form on the shortened branches. Spur pruning will enable your wisteria to bloom earlier in life (usually within four to five years) and you will be amazed at the number of flowers. Our wisteria is on a trellis that measures 15 by 25 feet and we never get fewer than a thousand blooms in spring.

You are probably asking yourself at this time, “So what is the problem?” Put simply, just as a puppy has to chew, a wisteria has to grow. And grow and grow and grow. Wisteria is well behaved until the bloom period ends in early June. That's when the real action starts. Tendrils begin to grow all over the plant. They grow fast, often more than six feet in a week! It's critical to take action right away, before the tendrils wrap around other vines, find their way into neighboring trees and shrubs, or slither under the siding or roofing on your house. It is a good idea to remove the spent flower stems right after the flowers fade. It's a big job, but removal of the stems will prevent development of the poisonous (and in my opinion) ugly seedpods. This is also the best time to thin mature wisteria by selectively removing some of the old spurs, and totally removing many of the unwanted tendrils. Wisteria can develop such a thick foliage cover that being under it feels as if you’re in a cave. Again, it’s a lot of work, but yearly thinning gives shape to the vine and allows light and air to penetrate. Don’t worry about loosing a few spurs. A mature wisteria has plenty to spare.

**Keep your pruners out**

Usually growth seems to slow a bit after the first June pruning. Don’t put away the ladder! Before you know it, you will notice that tendrils have been silently growing again. Look closer, they are everywhere, twisted around other vines, in your rhododendron. How did they get to the top of the 100 foot cedar tree? Run for your ladder before it is too late! Hours later, you will congratulate yourself for a job well done. The unwanted tendrils have been pruned to six inches. All is under control. Then, a few nights later, you wake up in a sweat. They are back! You can hear the vines moving, slithering under the slats, soon they will find their way under the roof. The next morning, after a sleepless night, it is once more up the ladder. Again you find yourself struggling to free twisted vines, cutting and ripping out tendrils that are now ensconced in your Lady Banks rose. Your blood pressure begins to rise. Then you realize

continued on page 26
A Garden for All Seasons: the 2000-2001 Signature Bed

This year’s Signature Bed, “A Garden for All Seasons,” is the 50th anniversary celebratory gift from members of Arboretum Foundation Unit 41 to the thousands of Arboretum visitors who will enjoy its year-long beauty and garner ideas for their own gardens.

Unit members Peggy Farrell and Darcy Halloran designed the garden to provide interest throughout the year without the need to add and remove plants. The bed integrates a vibrant mix of perennials and bulbs with trees and shrubs. Most plants were donated from unit members’ gardens, reflecting the varied interests of the group.

Repeating elements lend continuity to the design. Geranium ‘Ann Folkard’ spreads with a leaf and flower palette like a wash to a watercolor painting. Bronze foliage echoes the hues of the Cercis canadensis ‘Forest Pansy’. Vertical leaves of Hemerocallis, Iris and Schizostylis add emphasis and proportion to the narrow planting, while the white flowers of Anemone blanda provide for evening impact along the bed’s eastern edge.

As winter slowly thaws into spring, watch for the emergence of a spectacular border of bulbs, including a dazzling assortment of cyclamen, Unit 41’s “signature plant.”

Many of the plant selections have special meaning to unit members. Not to be missed are the delightful Rhododendron nakahara, and several other splendid Rhododendron, including R. ‘Pink Prelude,’ R. yakusimanum and R. ‘Elsie Watson,’ (shown here) named after a unit member. Rhododendron ‘Myrtle DeFriel’ is the namesake of the mother of another unit member, Jeanne Gardiner.

The Signature Bed at the Washington Park Arboretum is a small display garden with a big job to do: It welcomes thousands of visitors yearly to the Arboretum’s Graham Visitors Center.

In a narrow (6’ x 57’), elevated bed on the west side of the Visitors Center, this highly visible garden commands the attention of visitors and passersby on Arboretum Drive. Its unusual dimensions provide a challenge to gardeners and landscapers and an ideal space for evocative, innovative design.

Signature Bed themes have included a rock garden, a white garden, an edible landscape, a hummingbird garden, and a Japanese garden.

The life-cycle of each Signature Bed garden is October 1 to September 30. The concept was developed by Arboretum staff in 1987 as a volunteer project in cooperation with the Arboretum Foundation. University staff manage the bed and provide design oversight, soil preparation, irrigation and pest management. The Foundation contributes financial support, and volunteer design committees and work teams install, maintain and dismantle the bed.

Stop by the Graham Visitors Center to pick up a map and plant list of the Signature Bed. To learn more about Arboretum Foundation units, call 206-325-4510.
Sowing Seeds Indoors: The Joys of Winter Gardening

By Barbara Selemon

It’s cheaper than psychotherapy
Perhaps the winter blahs have taken over your mind and body and you are feeling mostly like a slug these days. A possible and practical cure for this state of inertia is to begin sowing seeds indoors. It’s not only uninviting to go outdoors in the rain and darkness to sow seeds; it is ill advised. Here in the Northwest, the late winter/early spring weather consists of rain, high winds, possible snow and ice and non-stop gray skies. The key reason to sow seeds indoors at this time of year is to provide shelter, warmth and protection to seeds for better, faster germination success. Sowing seeds also brings satisfaction and enjoyment along with new plants that will flower and produce food earlier, once set out into the garden. It’s a certain cure for the “slug-ishness” syndrome so commonly experienced during the months of February through April.

Which type of plants?
Any type of plant can be started indoors, but the following types get an especially beneficial start now.

Vegetables. Sow seeds beginning mid-March, or six to nine weeks back of the last frost date (May 15th in the maritime Pacific Northwest). Members of the cole family (Brassicaceae) such as broccoli and
cabbage, as well as parsley, lettuce, corn and tomatoes, make ideal candidates.

Annuals and perennials. Sow now so that flowers will appear earlier in the growing season for annuals and push the growth for perennial starts.

Woody plants. Sow seeds now of very small size (as those from the Ericaceae family). These seeds, sown on the soil surface, respond to light for germination.

Houseplants. Now’s the time to start succulents and cacti from seed.

When seeds have germinated (by the end of two months, maximum) and begun to develop, daylight hours will be longer and temperatures will be warmer. This makes for perfect timing to set the plantlets outside for further growth.

Where is a good place?

An indoor area should have even temperatures (65-75 degrees F), even humidity (25-30 percent), a light source, and a water supply. Any shelf, table or windowsill will work but not as efficiently as a propagation unit consisting of shelves with supplemental lighting. Avoid locating your propagation area too near a direct heat source, such as a radiator or heating duct, which will reduce the humidity level too much. If you choose to locate your seeds on a windowsill, be aware that the lighting may be insufficient for normal growth, producing seedlings that are leggy and weak-stemmed. Since all plants grow towards a light source, the propagation trays would require daily rotation to overcome this natural response called “phototropism.”

What are the essentials?

Soilless medium. A good seed mix is comprised of soil that is sterile, so that weed seeds are absent; and that holds water well yet drains fairly rapidly. It has good pore space but is firm enough to hold the seeds in place and not shrink away from the sides. A good commercial seed mix contains peat and perlite or vermiculite as well as added fertilizer ingredients but no “real soil.”

Containers. Flats or individual containers should be two to three inches deep. Any container two to three inches in length will serve as a propagation unit, however, standard seed flats made of plastic are designed for good moisture absorption and maintenance. Flats can be used for any type of plant that transplants well. Use an individual container for those that are difficult to transplant. There are several to choose from, but probably the most popular are Jiffy pellets, peat or fiber pots, and soil blocks. All are designed to be planted out—container and all. When planting, it is a good idea to break up the root ball so that the roots don’t remain in the original pot formation.

Temperature. Most plants indoors will germinate at an average of 74 degrees F., or a range from 64 F minimum to 85 F maximum.

Water. Don’t allow your seed flats to dry out, or the germination process will stop. The best way to water seed flats is by capillary action, by submersing seed containers up to one-half inch into a tray of water. This keeps the moisture even, and the water tray boosts the humidity level surrounding the seeds. Maintain the water level in the tray up until the first true leaves are showing on your seedlings. Then switch to overhead irrigation, watering thoroughly and allowing the soil to dry out in between applications. Once germination has occurred, the humidity level should be decreased to avoid disease problems.

Supplemental light. Fluorescent tubes set four to five inches above seed containers provide the best spectrum of light, the most closely
related to natural light. Flats or pots on a shelf underneath fluorescent lighting require rotation, since the inner ones receive the best light and those on the outer parts of the shelf are shorted.

Supplemental heat. Bottom heat cables, which can be found at garden or greenhouse supply stores, placed directly under the water trays or embedded in a layer of sand are ideal for use in unheated areas such as a porch or greenhouse.

Humidity. Most indoor rooms lack adequate humidity. Covering seed containers with some sort of plastic covering helps with humidity, but might encourage diseases, such as “damping off.” Damping off is a collective name for several fungal strains that attack seedlings at or below the soil surface when warm and damp conditions exist.

**What do I need to do once I have seedlings?**

Maintaining even moisture is vital to good germination. Once the seedlings have emerged, it is critical to keep watering, yet not allow roots to sit in water. Allow the soil to dry before re-watering, to prevent rot and disease.

Thinning newly sown seeds is a must to ensure healthy root systems. Although it is tough to cull out seedlings, remember that this practice is best for growing vigorous plants. If seedlings are too close together, their root systems compete for nutrients and water.

Fertilizing seedlings invigorates growth. Most seed mixes contain fertilizer. Seedlings less than two weeks old should not be fertilized, as the fertilizer salts can be toxic to young, fragile plants. Once the first set of true leaves (not the cotyledons) appears, you can apply fertilizer.

**Should I transplant?**

If you’ve sown seeds in individual containers, transplanting is not necessary and the new seedlings can be sown directly out in the garden. Seeds sown in flats, however, require transplanting. Handling small seedlings is a delicate operation. Take care to pick up and repot a seedling by its leaves rather than its stem so that the stem is not accidentally broken. The extent of the root system determines the correct size container to use in potting up. Look at the root system and choose a container that will allow the plant to grow without any roots touching the sides or bottom of the pot. Do prune off rampant roots that may be larger than the container’s depth. It isn’t fatal to prune these very long roots back to a manageable size. (This is most likely with woody plants.)

**When to plant out.**

Prior to setting out new plants, provide them a period of acclimatization, or “hardening off.” Once the seedlings are mature enough, normally four to six weeks after emergence, they should be toughened up by reducing water, fertilizer and high temperatures—but maintaining light. After one week of this regime, begin introducing your new plants to outdoor conditions by first setting them out in a sheltered spot that receives only indirect sunlight. Gradually allow more sunlight over the next few days.

By this time, spring has sprung. The birds are chirping loudly, the days are getting longer and you, the gardener, are feeling livelier and more energetic. The bleakness of late winter has passed and you are prepared for a long season of home sown satisfaction and enjoyment.

**Barbara Selemon has been Plant Propagator for the Center for Urban Horticulture / Washington Park Arboretum for 15 years, specializing in the propagation of woody ornamentals.**
that tendrils are wrapped into your extremely delicate and rare Hydrangea aspera. You begin to use words that you learned from Paris taxi drivers when you drove around the traffic circle at the Arc de Triomphe. You find yourself on the top step of the ladder; the one above the rung with the warning that only dim-dims and suicidal maniacs dare venture beyond here. As you strain on your tiptoes to cut that last, just-out-of-reach tendril, you begin to feel the ladder shift.

Every week from mid June until almost the end of September, your wisteria will continue to put out tendrils that, if left uncontrolled, will bring misery and destruction to your home and garden. Don't dare take a summer vacation. You are likely to find the family dog lost in the wisteria when you return.

The final pruning of the year comes in late fall. When the leaves have dropped and the vines are finally dormant, you can spur prune any last tendril that you missed or didn't get around to pruning during the growing season. At last, you can relax, kick back and enjoy the beautiful framework crafted by your hard work. This is also a good time to plan the party you will have in spring to show off the wisteria in full bloom, and to celebrate removal of the body cast you have been wearing since falling off the top rung of the ladder last summer.

Yes, there really is plenty to swear and whine about when you have a wisteria in your garden, but when you see it explode into bloom in spring, you’ll know it was worth it.

By the way, did I mention that it is generally not a good idea to fertilize a mature wisteria?

Ciscoe Morris is the Horticulturist at Seattle University. He produces and hosts a popular Saturday morning gardening program on KIRO radio.
BOOK REVIEW

Befriending a Scholarly Work: 
British Botanical and Horticultural Literature before 1800

by Brian Thompson

Note to readers: Pre-18th Century British gardeners were clearly more concerned with plant introductions than the AP Stylebook: The seeming inconsistencies in capitalization and punctuation in the titles referenced in this article are taken verbatim from those works and reflect the journalistic style of that era.

Large books can be daunting. Works that come in several volumes are particularly daunting. Fill these volumes with lots of names, dates and obscure titles in Latin and you may quickly go in search of the latest e-book mystery.

There are times, however, when these epic and erudite works are well worth the extra effort. One example is a recent three-volume addition to the Miller Library, British Botanical and Horticultural Literature before 1800 by Blanche Henrey. Highly regarded in scholarly circles, there are lurking among the names and dates many delightful tales of the authors, illustrators and publishers of this body of writings that is the foundation for the familiar garden literature of more recent times. Finding your way is perhaps akin to reading Shakespeare: After awhile you fall into a rhythm and don’t get thrown by the strange terminology.

How do you approach a book like this? Certainly not like a novel that you read from cover to cover. Better to think of it as an anthology, which you thumb through looking for the stories that catch your interest. Or perhaps like a favorite reference book, in which you scan the table of contents or index for already familiar authors and titles, then read about other endeavors by these authors. For example, you can learn that William Curtis, founder of the very long-lived The Botanical Magazine, among his many lesser know activities grew seven acres of sea kale (Crambe maritima), then published a pamphlet promoting its culture and preparation for the dinner table.

The three volumes of Literature before 1800 are not created equally. The third is a bibliography and is best left for the academician. The first volume covers the earliest writings (from 1520) and includes some interesting stuff, but I wouldn’t start here. The real joy is the second volume which looks at the 1700’s, a rich time in the history of British horticulture with the introduction of many new plants, a developing interest in plants beyond their medical uses, and acceptance that gardens can be for public display or simply private enjoyment. This is by far the largest volume, offering a measure of the richness of the time both in terms of publishing and horticulture.

Here you’ll find chapters on herbals, floras of both the British Isles and elsewhere, and descriptions of the plants collected by botanical and private gardens. Home gardeners will be interested in the first publications by nurseries, seed companies and florists. The nurseryman Christopher Gray was noted for his collection of North American exotics, described in A Catalogue of American Trees and Shrubs that will endure the Climate of England. A single sheet, it is reproduced in its entirety and gives a fascinating snapshot of the “hot” exotics of 1737.
Garden design books began to appear during this century. A 1784 publication gives the intriguing title of Elements of Modern Gardening; or, the art of Laying Out of Pleasure Grounds, Ornamenting Farms, and Embellishing the Views round about our Houses. Although published anonymously, the author was known to be John Trusler, an ordained priest who nonetheless knew how to make a living as a printer and bookseller, and by writing and selling printed sermons to his perhaps less industrious fellow clergy.

Not for the last time, poetry and horticultural literature mingled in 1794 with The landscape, a didactic poem by Richard Payne Knight. Henrey does an excellent job of keeping her own opinions out of the way, and by using quotes or references, with careful footnotes, weaves a seamless stream of narrative that captures much of the thinking of the era.

The author augments her text generously with illustrations from the referenced publications, often in color. Besides the many lovely botanical subjects, she includes often fanciful or even bizarre frontispieces and other engravings. My favorite shows a grim father time figure with a dragon on his head and bat wings, stirring up very troubled waters. Entitled “Tornado,” it comes from the third edition of The botanic garden by Erasmus Darwin, grandfather of Charles. Henrey has kept her illustrations close to their descriptive text, so as you’re reading you can easily look at the relevant title page, a portrait of the author, instructive diagrams on plant care, or plans for the prevailing garden design practices of the time.

Literature before 1800 was published in 1975. Although no longer in print and not available for lending, we invite you to visit the library on one of these gray, wintry afternoons and spend some time curled up with this wonderful addition to our collection.

Brian Thompson is a Librarian at the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library.
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An arboretum is a living museum of woody plants for research, education, conservation and display.