

Hardy Plant Society of Washington

Date: 10/21/08 7-9 pm

Location: Graham Visitor's Center, Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle

Purpose: Who we are as a new group

Moderator: Bob Lilly

Agenda:

1. Who are we – It was discussed what our new group should be called. It was argued that the Hardy Plant Society of Washington was a superior name to Northwest Hardy Plant Society or Pacific Northwest Hardy Plant Society because it maintains the format used by other Hardy Plant Societies, such as in Oregon or England. An overwhelming vote of 30 solidified this choice.
2. What we do – Our mission statement was discussed, and we concluded that we would promote the enjoyment and study of hardy herbaceous plants, sub-shrubs (... “we’re all getting older, shrubs should be included” ...), and their companions. [Answers.com suggests that members of HPS are avid gardeners who collect and grow unusual and desirable herbaceous perennials in order to determine their hardiness and suitability for American gardens.] RESOLVED: It was decided that we would refine this at our next meeting when we develop our constitution.
3. Meetings – The third Tuesday of each month, omitting December and January, was the best meeting day for most attendees.
4. What we want to do – A list of ideas with which we could be involved was given:
  - a. Lecture Series = Yes
  - b. Special Events = Yes
  - c. Northwest Flower and Garden Show = Not Yet
  - d. Formal Plant Trials = Yes
    - i. This gives us good exposure as a new group
    - ii. No one else is doing this
    - iii. We could involve schools and horticultural programs
  - e. New Public Garden = Yes
  - f. Seed Exchange = Yes
5. New Public Garden – Everyone was enthusiastic about creating a new public garden with the requirement that the site give us a 5-year minimum ‘lease’. Some sites were discussed: Bellevue, WA Park Arboretum, Good Shepard Center, Bastyr, Mercer Island, and Magnuson Park. [The best idea so far (as to central location, parking) was Mercer Island. A quick poll of meeting attendees showed 1/3 Eastside attendees, and 2/3 Seattle attendees.]

6. Dues – Dues should be collected with the start of the new year, to allow preparation of non-profit tax documentation. It was proposed that \$25 or \$30 per year would be appropriate, depending on expenses.
7. Expenses – The room rental at the Graham Visitor’s Center is \$125/night. [Benefits of the GVC include the use of a presentation screen and enough space for 80-90 people (as opposed to meeting rooms in libraries that while free, limit attendance to about 60).] Therefore, a minimum cost of \$1250 per year (10 meetings) is not supported by 35 members paying \$30 that yields only 1050 per year. Prior to this meeting, \$1025 was donated. \$655 was used to contact NPA members, leaving \$370. Donors graciously turned over remaining funds to the new group, rather than to refund or give free memberships to the donors.
8. Non Profit Status (501c3) – To obtain a non-profit status, 501C3 paperwork with the government must be completed. This will require a constitution. Deborah Stuteville will follow up with a colleague to see if she can obtain help in this area. RESOLVED: Next month’s agenda will be to determine our mission statement, constitution, officers, and bylaws. Officers will be decided after we’ve all enjoyed some wine. The banquet permit costs \$10.
  - a. One mission statement was suggested: Our mission is to study, enjoy, and educate others about hardy herbaceous plants and their companions with lectures, seed exchanges, and the creation of a public garden.
9. New Business –
  - a. Ruth Chaus brought a catalog and order form for a South African company (African Bulbs, [www.africanbulbs.com](http://www.africanbulbs.com)) that will ship bulbs and seeds to us for a \$65 phytosanitary inspection fee.
  - b. Bonnie Sharpe brought cyclamens for sale, \$6.
  - c. Marian brought a nice dark purple dahlia to share.
  - d. Many door prizes were given. Remember to bring something to give for next month.
10. Next meeting –
  - a. To come up with a list of people whom you would like to speak to our group.
  - b. To come up with topics you would like presented, or would like to present yourself, to our group.
  - c. To resolve the constitution, mission statement, and bylaws.
  - d. To elect officers?
  - e. To exchange used books and magazines.
  - f. Bob Lilly will give a slideshow of his most recent trip to England (Great Dixter, Sissinghurst, etc.)
11. A demonstration of seed cleaning was given by Bob Lilly.

Attendees (33):

Mary Ellen Asmundson  
Carrie Becker  
Alice Brewer  
Ann Bucher  
Susan Carter  
Ruth Chaus  
Elizabeth Gilham  
Lynne Harrison  
Grace Hensley  
Ann Hobson  
Falaah Jones  
Madelyn Katzman  
Kandy Kroll  
Barry Latter  
Susan Latter  
Julie Martinson  
Kathy Norsworthy  
Eileen O'Connor  
Kristin Pearson-Franks  
Pamela Perrott  
Susan Peterson  
Anne Potter  
Marian Raitz  
Jan Reed  
Rizaniño Reyes  
Alice Schroder  
Sara Seager  
Bonnie Sharpe  
Ken Simkins  
Paul Smith  
Deborah Stuteville  
Helen Twardoski-Whitmore  
Coral Wilde