

January 2015

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

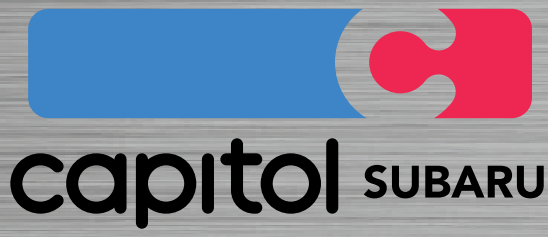
Portland's Forest Park

Winter Watering Plant Care

Tillandsia • Lime

Drake's 7 Dees
Robin Lee

Garden Time returns in March
on a new station - KPDX!
See page 3.



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New Year, New Changes

The beginning of the New Year is traditionally the time for people to make changes that will improve their lives. Whether it is losing weight, eating better or trying to become a better person, there is always something that we feel we need to improve on. Last year Therese (Garden Time production assistant, my beautiful wife) and I decided to lose some weight because of too much celebrating during the holidays. We both started to work out more and counted our calories, and we both lost a lot of weight. Little changes can reap big benefits!

And as we are about to enter our 10th season, we have a few changes for the show too. We will be moving the show back to Saturday mornings! We are moving to 9am on KPDX-TV in March of 2015 in the Portland area. We have loved working with KOIN-TV for the past 6 years and they have been an incredible partner of Garden Time (and the Fusion show), but this past fall they were told by CBS that they had to move our program out of the Saturday morning slot. KOIN was great and gave us the Saturday afternoon, 5pm, time slot. This slot was wonderful since it had a lot more viewers, but we heard from our hard-core gardeners that they wanted the show back on Saturday mornings. We listened and asked KOIN if it was possible and when CBS wouldn't allow the move, we asked KPTV/KPDX if they could make room for us... and they did. This is a move that will work really well for most of our viewers. They will get to watch the show at the beginning of the weekend and it will give them a chance to put some of the garden ideas from the show into action. It should be fun for everyone.

If you are thinking about changes in your lifestyle, then this month's issue is for you. We have a few articles that could make your life better. First, if you are looking for a way to get healthy, how about hiking? Judy takes a look at urban hikes in the Forest Park area of Portland and what you can find there. Forest Park is one of the treasures of our great city and every time you walk its trails you will find something different. Another thing that might be life altering is a change in your diet. Therese has a story about growing citrus in your garden. In our area these productive plants might need a little heat during the cold days of winter but they are worth it! She covers some basic care instructions, how to keep your plants healthy and even shares a 'killer' salsa recipe that will wow your friends and family. Finally, what about a change to your decor? Sarah talks about how to redo your bedroom on the cheap. Just because it is inexpensive doesn't mean it has to look cheap! Sometimes a quick paint job, new lighting or a set of curtains can make all the difference!

We look forward to seeing some of you on the Garden Time Tour to Costa Rica in a little over a week where we can answer all your questions about the changes to the show. If you have questions about our trip to Ireland you can drop us a line anytime through the Garden Time website. We just found out that they are extending our \$200 discount until the end of January! We would like to let you know that, even with the upcoming changes, we will always look at bringing you the best in home and garden information.

Happy Gardening,

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

Garden Time Magazine • January 2015 • Volume 7, No. 1, Issue #70

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Walking in a Winter Wonderland

**A chilly outing through
Portland's Forest Park
reveals nature in a
totally different light.**

by Judy Alleruzzo

The busy holidays are over and it is time to have some fun with other winter pursuits. Plus, we all need to get out and work off some of those holiday desserts.

Taking a woodland walk in the wintery Northwest is a chilly outing, but a way to enjoy nature in a totally different look. Weather can change quickly

so be prepared with warm and water-resistant clothes to stay as comfortable as possible. A back pack with a snack, thermos with hot tea or a bottle of water always help to make a winter walk much more pleasant. Don't forget a camera or Smart Phone to capture the scenery.

The day I trekked out in the

woods was dry but overcast with threatening dark gray clouds to the west. I had never been to Forest Park in Portland and decided to try a walk there. It is a gem of an urban park with over 80 miles of trails within 15,000 acres.

Forest Park was formally established in 1948 after almost being

PHOTO CREDIT: RON SHEPHERD

developed into a Portland neighborhood. The park is under the care of Portland Parks and Recreation and also The Forest Park Conservancy (open every day from 5AM to 10PM.) Since the park is in the city, it's was a quick trip to the Leif Eriksson Drive Trail off NW Thurman Street. I put on my new, special winter walking socks and favorite hiking shoes. I was ready to take off down the trail.

A winter walk is different in many ways than a spring or summer walk in the woods. Of course, there are the obvious ones; it's a lot colder and wetter than summer walks. There were not as many plants to ID in this winter woodland setting. The few plants that were not dormant were easy to see among the dry, tawny brown, fallen leaves.



PHOTO CREDIT: RON SHEPHERD



PHOTO CREDIT: RON SHEPHERD



PHOTO CREDIT: RON SHEPHERD

Sword Ferns were everywhere along the pathways. On a rock wall, there was a deep green waterfall of fern fronds. The foliage was shiny from the beginning of a light mist in the air. Down another pathway, there were several large tree trunks blown down by the last fall's heavy winds. It was amazing to

see a close up view of the thick moss and Licorice Ferns growing on the trees. I would suspect the trees were either old Poplars or Big Leaf Maples. It's great the overseers of the park leave these snags to become nursing logs for new plants and a shelter for birds and small animals. I saw another Oregon native, a wild Filbert with

its catkin's starting to bloom. This winter landscape is not without interesting details.

I walked another half mile or so and saw a row of Redwood seedlings, maybe 20 feet tall. They may have been planted by Portland Parks and Rec or The Forest Park Conservancy that schedule



PHOTO CREDIT: RON SHEPHERD

planting work parties or clean out the obnoxious ivy and blackberry vines covering the park. I could see areas cleared of the thugs and dried ivy vines hanging off the native trees. They are making advances to help native plants come back to the park.

For a pretty chilly day, I was surprised how many people were out on the trail. It always amazes me that Oregonians are out and about in all kinds of weather. Families were out for the day and dogs with their humans joined me on the trail. Several very muddy cyclists shouted, "On your left", as I walked down the pathway. Many a mud splashed runner sped past me. Even though this stretch of Forest Park is not for a solitary winter walk, it was still great to be out and about in this urban woodland.

As is normal in winter in Portland, a light rain picked up from the mist when I was about an hour into my walk. It was OK, I expected it. What I didn't expect was the change to sleet and then to big snowflakes. It was beautiful! I'm a Chicago girl that misses just a bit of snow to remind me it is winter even in the Pacific Northwest. The snow completed the sentimental thought of a winter walk in the woods.

At the end of my walk, I relaxed in my car and had a sandwich and cup of tea to help warm me up before setting off for home. I was surprised by this woodland walk in the city. I could still hear the sounds of the traffic and airplanes overhead, but I also heard the calls of birds and the wind through the trees. It was a rejuvenating day to be out on a woodland trail, plus I got to break in the winter socks that Santa brought me!



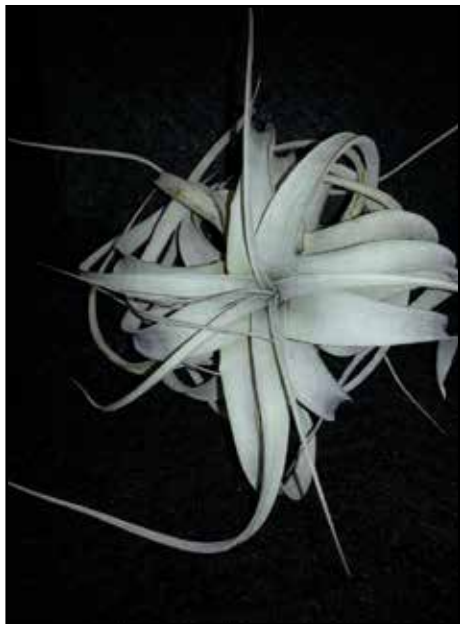
PHOTO CREDIT: RON SHEPHERD



PHOTO CREDIT: RON SHEPHERD



**For more information
about hikes and
volunteers projects:**
forestparkconservancy.org



Just Add Water

Tillandsias are air plants, which means they don't need soil.
So how do you water them? by William McClenathan

Few plants are as easy to care for as Tillandsias.

They are one of the groups of plants which we class as epiphytes. That is just a fancy word which means they do not require any traditional soil to survive. They get their water from the moisture in the air as well as their nutrition.

Some of the other families of plants which belong to the epiphytic group are orchids and bromeliads. But Rhododendrons, Impatiens, even cactus and succulents have small groups of their families which have climbed up from the soil to thrive within the branches of trees or on the tops of rocks and boulders.

Also known as air plants, these charming plants can add a whole new aspect to design and creativity to the gardener.

I have been happy that in the last couple of years many places are beginning to carry a great selection of these beautiful and fun plants. Because they do not need

soil to thrive, there are countless ways to utilize them.

The key to making these treasures thrive is in the watering of them. As our homes have become better insulated and closed off from fresh air, watering can be frustrating, until you understand what the plant wants and how to supply those needs.

So, how do you water them?

It's actually pretty easy. A good spray bottle filled with water works the quickest. Just make sure to cover the entire plant... just like nature would when it rains on them.

Another way is to simply toss them in the tub, a sink or a bucket and let them soak for a while. The amount of time will depend on how hot and dry your home is and the size of the plant.

Doing a bit of research will help too. Even in this family there are some which want much less moisture than others. Knowing where a plant lives natively will

give you a clear indication on things like water and light requirements. For example, *T. ecuadorian* needs water maybe twice a month, while others, like *Tillandsia usneoides*, need it every day, and others only once a week. Like all gardening, it's a learning process.

I am including a few pictures of some of my most favorite Tillandsias.

A few places I have found which have some amazing selections of these are Portland Nursery, Al's Garden Center in Sherwood and Drake's in Raleigh Hills.

Give a call to your favorite place to see if they have these delightful plants in stock, and then begin your own creation of a Tillandsia gardens!

**Watch an interview
with Ryan from
Little Prince of Oregon.**

**[www.youtube.com/
embed/PYZJBzQg3Ys](http://www.youtube.com/embed/PYZJBzQg3Ys)**



Care Bearer

**Even in the dormancy of winter,
your plants need a little TLC.**

by Therese Gustin

We gardeners look forward to taking a little break from our gardening chores during the winter season. After all... most plants have gone dormant, the rains have started and it's cold outside. It's the season to curl up in a comfy chair, peruse seed catalogs and plan your garden for the coming spring. For the most part we can ignore our plants for a couple of months but there are a few times where we need to brave the weather and take care of our outdoor plants.



Watering - You may think with all our rain we don't have to water in the winter. While that is true for our plants that are out in the open, we shouldn't forget those areas that are under the eaves. Overhangs may keep the soil dry in these areas so check every few weeks to see if the ground is wet and water as needed. Containers are another area that needs a little extra TLC in the winter. If you have containers that are up against the house, these too may not be benefitting from our winter rains. Check them every couple of weeks and water as needed. If there is a freeze in the forecast, get out there and water. Plants have a better chance of survival if they are not drought stressed.

Mulching - If you haven't already done so; cover your marginally hardy plants with a layer of mulch. Raking those fallen leaves into the beds is a good way to protect tender plants. Newspaper, frost cloth or bark dust are all good choices for mulch. Just remember to remove the mulch when temperatures climb in the spring. Another way to protect those semi-hardy plants is to bring them into a protected area during the coldest part of the winter. I keep an Agave in a pot and bury the pot in the ground during the growing season. When the weather turns cold, I remove the whole container and store it in the greenhouse. I also put an empty pot in the hole to prevent the hole from filling up with soil over the winter.

Pruning - I have to admit I had a very busy fall this year and neglected most of my fall clean up and pruning duties. It's not altogether a bad thing. Leaving stems and seed heads on my perennials has provided food for the birds. But it's not too late to tidy up a bit. In fact, winter is a great time to prune most shrubs and trees. Without their leaves, the structure of the trees and shrubs are visible and it's easier to see which dead, diseased and crossing branches need to be removed. The exception to this rule is spring flowering trees and shrubs. If you prune them in the winter you will remove the flower buds for the current year. It is best to prune spring flowering trees and shrubs right after they bloom. (I.e. Lilacs, rhododendrons, Ribes etc.) Roses can also be cut back in late winter (generally mid to late February).

So bundle up and take a walk around your garden this month and see if any of your plants just may need a little extra care.



One with the Cosmos

Robin Lee transformed a fascination with flowers into designs on nature.

by Judy Alleruzzo

Garden Time Magazine's last few Horties have come from long established farm families with long Oregon histories. This month's Hortie, Robin Lee, is a newcomer to Oregon and designs landscape for Drake's 7 Dees Landscape De-

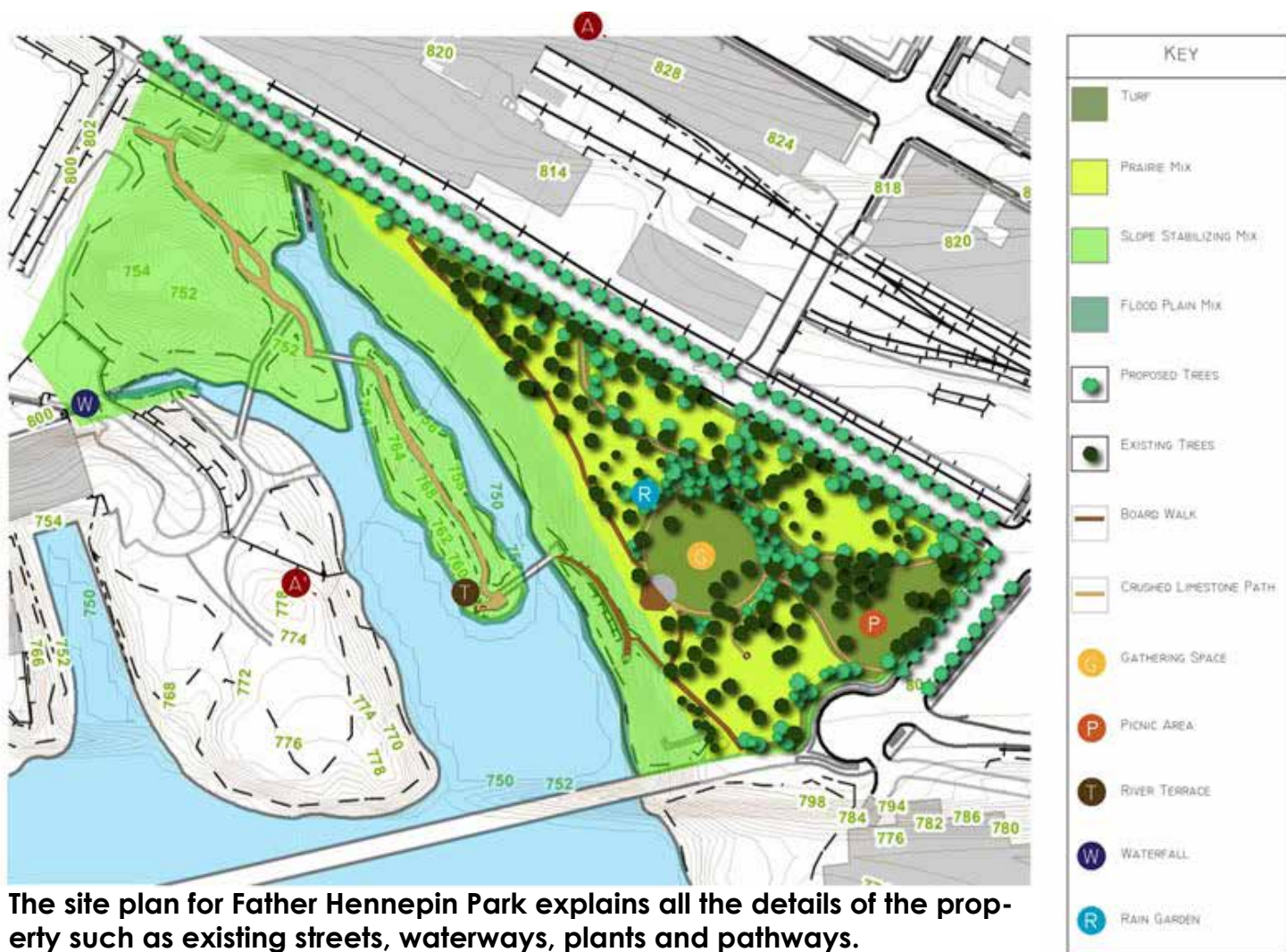
sign. She is bringing with her a rich talent in Landscape Architecture combined with a love of art and nature. Robin grew up in Minnesota where she lived until leaving for college. She gardened with her grandmother and

mother. She loved going over to her grandmother's to help in her garden, pulling weeds and planting flowers. At her home, Robin had her own garden plot where she raised whatever she desired. Robin loved to experiment with



PHOTO CREDIT: CLAUDIA LEE

At Vigeland Park, Oslo, Norway



The site plan for Father Hennepin Park explains all the details of the property such as existing streets, waterways, plants and pathways.

seeds. Her first success was growing Cosmos flowers from seeds. Robin remembers, "I was fascinated by the beginning to end cycle" of the Cosmos. Pretty profound statement for a 10 year old, but the beginning thoughts of a future Landscape Architect was taking shape. If Robin wasn't puttering in her garden plot, she was sketching and painting scenes of the natural world around her. Her creativity for all things in nature was enhanced by her love of gardening.

The connection of art, nature and gardens became a recurring theme in Robin's life. She went to summer camp in Ely, Minnesota where her love and respect of nature reaffirmed the path she was on toward her future. She also took many art classes in High School and was fortunate to have a friend whose father was a Landscape Architect. She saw his beautiful de-

signs and wanted to find a way to combine that love of art and nature with a function.

Robin left Minnesota for the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She received her Bachelor of Science with an emphasis on Design from this university. She took classes in her favorite subjects; horticulture, soil science, botany, drawing, painting, art history, sculpture and Chemistry. She returned to Minnesota and completed a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota: Twin Cities. Robin says, "The pieces all were there" as this career melded art and nature which she so enjoyed her whole life.

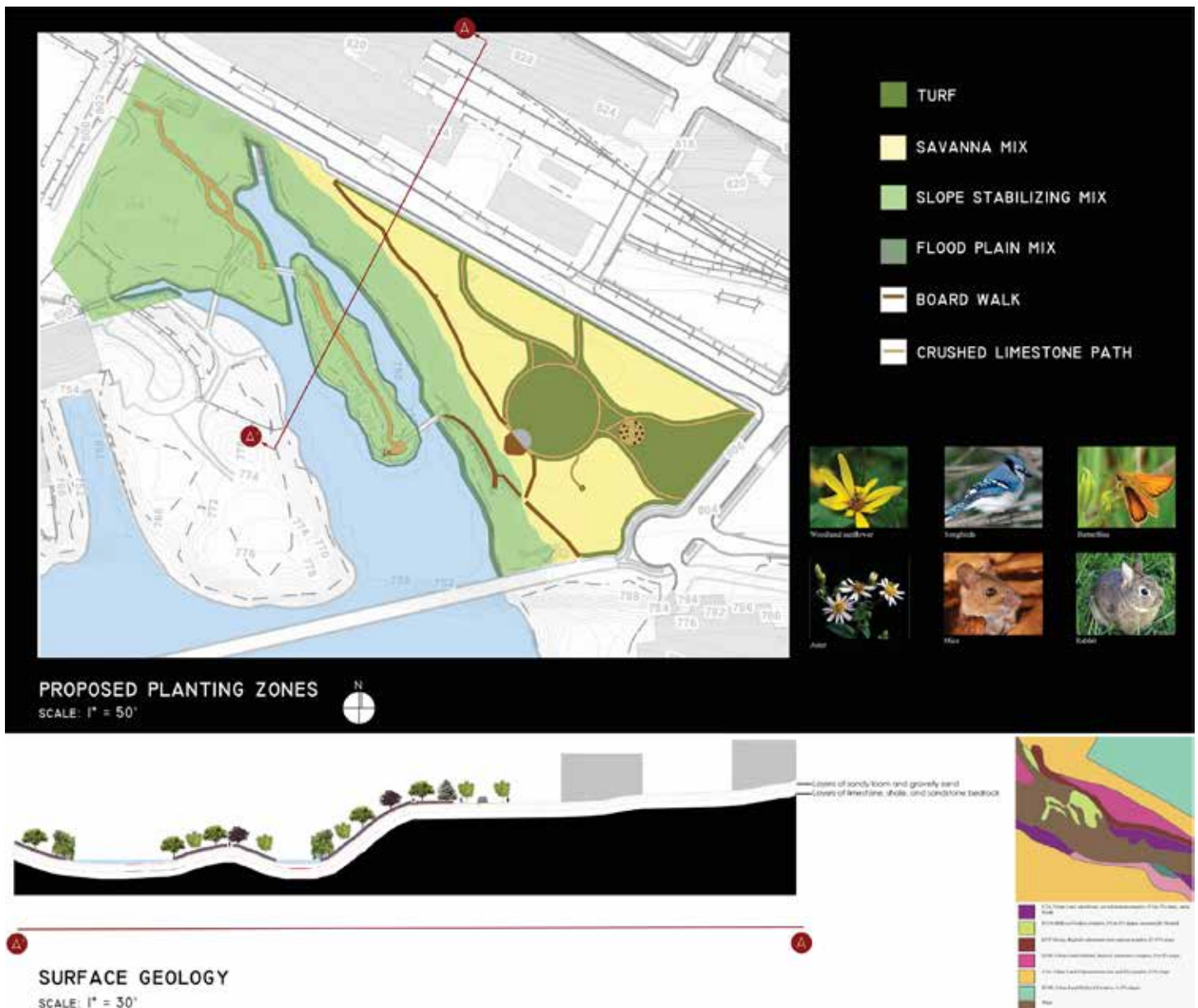
The summer after graduation Robin had a very cool internship at the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail, Colorado. Billed as "The World's Highest Botanical Garden, the vision of this garden is "to be

the premier alpine botanical garden in the world". She was lucky to meet Betty & Gerald Ford during her time at the garden.

Robin worked hard but had a lot of fun at this internship as she was The Children's Garden instructor. Her classes ran the gamut of teaching about the special plants and animals in this high elevation garden to workshops making pine cone suet feeders for the winter bird population. When Robin wasn't surrounded by kids, she was helping with garden maintenance or hiking and enjoying the wonders of Vail.

The next stop for Robin was back to Minnesota for an 8 month internship with Short Elliott and Hendrickson. SEH® is a big project firm where Robin worked on a few large scale designs.

While working for SEH®, Robin



This illustration shows more details for contractors: Site elevations and hardscaping materials list. Photos depict wildlife and native plants found in this area.

decided she would rather design smaller landscapes to help bring design and nature closer to people's homes. She was forming a more cohesive view of her career but felt she, "was not ready to sit in an office". She had a yen to "See the world, but off the beaten track". The Peace Corps filled that bill and she signed up to be sent anywhere in the world but to work as

an environmental volunteer.



Robin lived for two years in Immouzer Marmoucha, Morocco about 100 miles from the large city of Fez, Morocco. This rural town is the weekly 'Market Town' for the area. It is in Morocco's Atlas Mountains at an elevation of about 5000 ft. To get acquainted with the culture of Morocco, Robin lived with a host family for two months. She learned about the Muslim culture and language. She was preparing to be able to negotiate the rental of an apartment, furnish that apartment, and be able to communicate with the children in her care and for the daily interaction in Immouzer Marmoucha. Robin also was in touch with other Peace Corps volunteers in the area. These volunteers would become her family while in Morocco and her dear friends once going back to the States. Robin's duties included working with kids and teach-



PHOTO CREDIT: SHERRY SYBERTZ

Almond orchard

ing them about the environment.

Being good stewards of the land was the important lesson Robin taught to her students. They planted trees on the High School campus and started an almond orchard.

From her time in Morocco, the images of the traditional garden courtyards have stayed in her ar-

tistic mind. She would love to design a home in the Portland area with that concept in the building plan. In the meantime, she keeps in contact as much as possible with her friends in Morocco.

After returning to the States, Robin worked for two years at Elizabeth Harrington Design Inc., a Minneapolis landscape and design firm established in 1982. Robin

enjoyed working at this firm and says, "Elizabeth is an awesome woman, who is a kind and gentle person."

She had a wonderful experience working mostly on residential projects. Robin loved the fact that she worked through the whole process of the project of designing on site, picking and planting the perennials, shrubs and trees and even helping with garden maintenance. This is the way she likes to work even today, seeing the whole project to completion.

Robin has graciously sent me several landscape drawings from her portfolio. These drawings and sketches were proposals to clients and showcase what a Landscape Architect actually does at their drawing table and on a computer. These days many tools are available to aid in completing a design and make a useful image for the client. The "Before" and "After" computer generated pictures can be so real looking as to make one think the trees are actually planted on the site. The designer and computer fill in the spaces with drawings of how the mature plantings will look in several years time. The clients can see what their finished space will look like



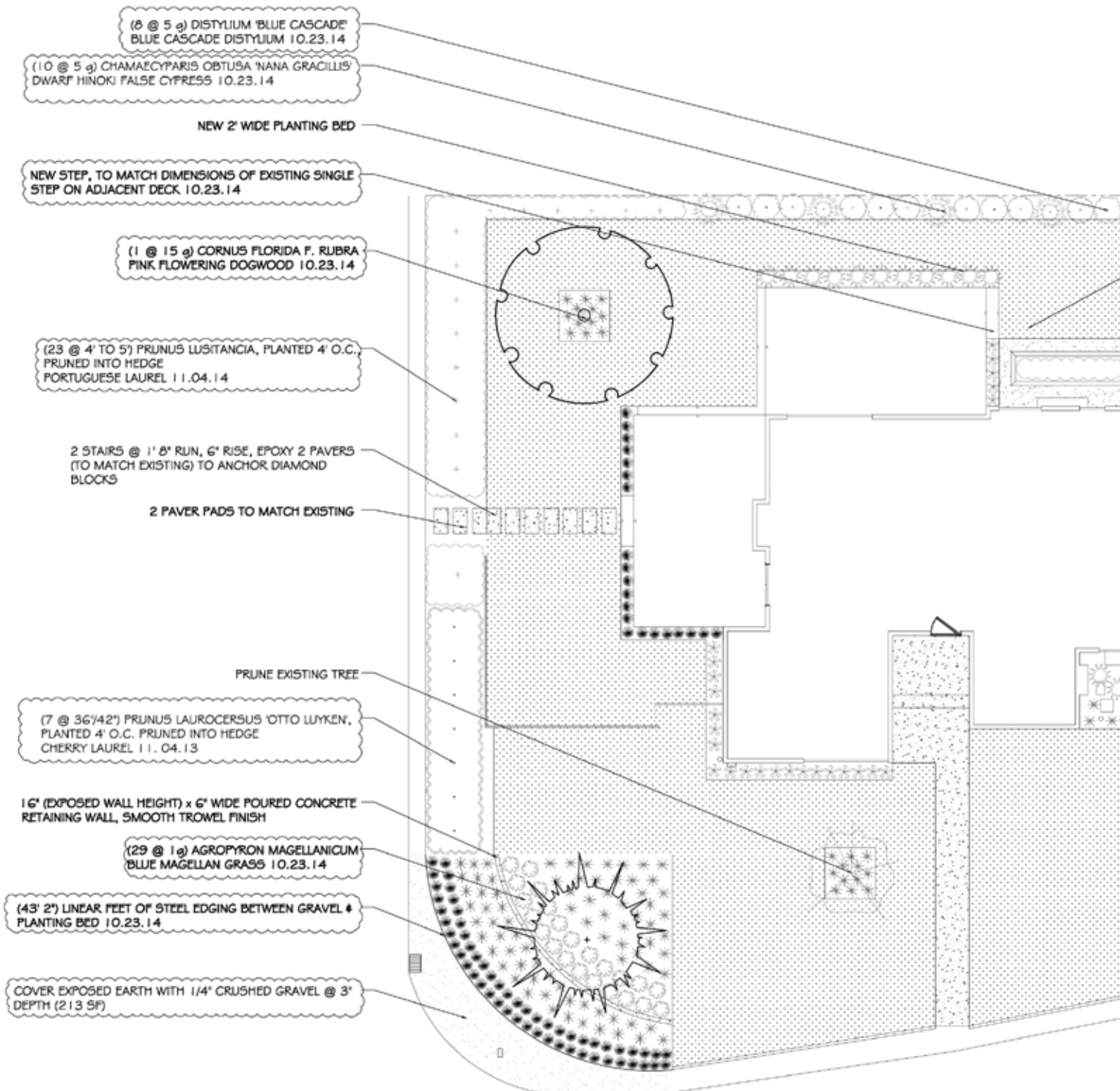
Site with computer generated trees, shrubs and vines.



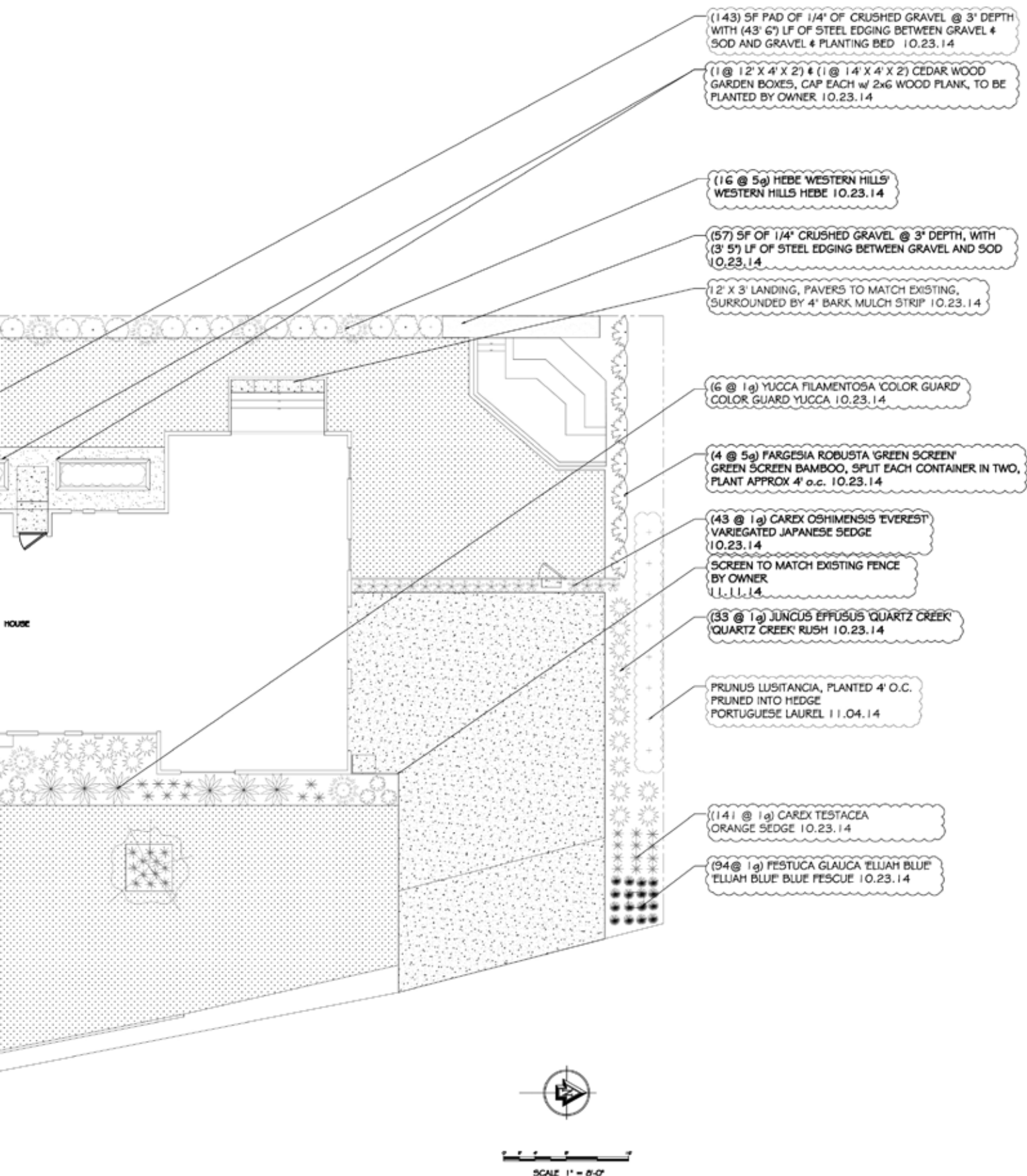
Actual trees installed in the park.

Landscape Design

One of Robin Lee's landscape designs designates the position of everything to be added to the yard, including plants, trees, pavers, retaining walls, screens and gravel.



*** TREE PRUNING NOTE: PRUNE TREE INDICATED ABOVE FOR
AESTHETICS, HEALTH, AND IMPROVED BRANCH STRUCTURE



once all the plants are in place and established.

During her time working at Elizabeth Harrington, Robin stayed in touch with her Peace Corps friends. Her friend, Steven told her about a Landscape Designer job opening in his firm, Drake's Landscape Design in Portland. Robin flew out and landed the job in March 2014.

Robin loves living in Portland and says, "For nature lovers, this is the best place to be". She enjoys learning about Northwest plants and draws more knowledge from the walking plant encyclopedias that are her co-workers at Drake's, (i.e., William, Gina and Anna).

Robin says she will hit a mental blank wall when trying to think of shrub option for a client's project and wander into the retail area at Drake's. She'll ask her co-workers, "What's your favorite 3 ft X 3 ft evergreen shrub for morning sun and afternoon shade" or "William, Hebes, hardy or not"?

This collaboration helps build Robin's familiarity with our huge selection of NW plants. Her favorite part of the day is getting lost in researching all the new plants she can choose from in her new planting zone.

Robin has worked on several projects since beginning to work at Drake's. She likes residential designs and working with the clients from the beginning design concepts to the landscape installation to the follow up meeting on completion of their new landscape. She's a good listener and loves the challenge of designing a beautiful and useful area that will make them happy and content in their outdoor spaces.

Her newest project is a Mid-Century ranch house landscape. The style of the home is very horizontal and the client wants simple but uniquely textured plants in an interesting color palette.

Robin is specking many plants in-

cluding variegated Yuccas, Stew-
artia, Artemisia, Perovskia and
Hebe 'Red Edge' for an orange-yel-
low and blue-gray color scheme.

Another new project is close to her heart as it's a courtyard setting. She is using bamboo to create walls that will separate the space into rooms. There will be a meeting/dining area, a fireplace and a water feature. The two clients love to cook and entertain so a place to BBQ, grow herbs and a few vegetables are in the design. These clients want a sanctuary to come home to at the end of their workday. Robin is the designer to fill all their needs and wants for their

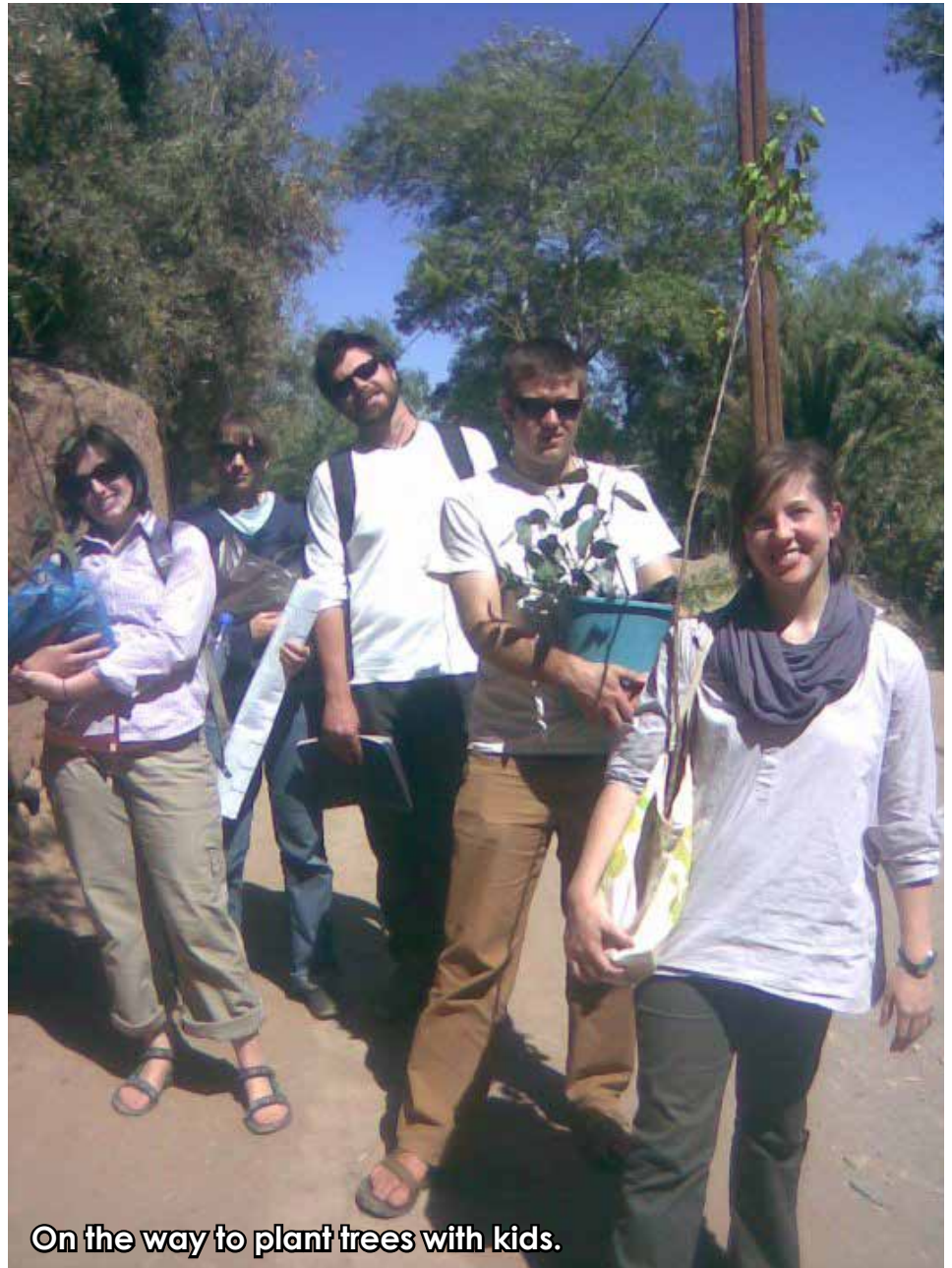
new outdoor space.

We all hope to find a life career that helps us express ourselves and put our talents to good use. Robin is a special person that realized how to do just that plus Portland always needs another garden geek. We are lucky to have her!

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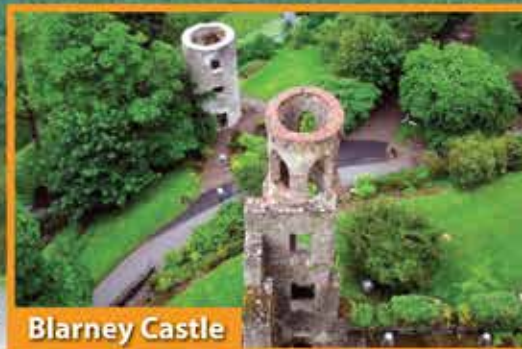
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TRIP BOOKED THROUGH



THE KEY TO LIMES

**You may actually find
that you cook with them
more often than lemons.**

by Therese Gustin

Cutting into a juicy ripe lime in the middle of winter picked from your own tree may seem impossible, but with a little winter protection from the cold you can grow limes and other citrus fruit right here in the Pacific Northwest! Yes, when we think of growing lime trees, we think Florida or Southern California but by growing them in containers we can produce the tart fruit successfully here.

My citrus habit started with a Meyer's lemon tree. My three foot tall tree has survived over ten years now and produces upwards of 30 lemons each year. I actually cook with limes more often than I cook with lemons so I was in search of a lime to add to my portable citrus garden. I acquired my Bearrs lime tree from Al's Garden Center about five years ago. I stopped in to purchase one and they were out of them except for a sad looking specimen which someone had returned because it had dropped all of its leaves. I bought it for half price knowing that with a little TLC I could nurse it back to health. When leaf drop happens to citrus it doesn't necessarily mean the plant is dying. It could have been a reaction to cold temperatures or lack of sunlight.



Bearrs Lime

The branches were still alive and in a very short time it started pushing out new leaves. Since then, my lime tree has flourished and has consistently produced dozens of limes each year!

In the ground, citrus trees typically reach 20 ft. in height but they stay much smaller when grown in containers. Since they don't do well when temperatures drop below freezing and they don't like their feet wet, growing citrus in containers is the only way to successfully grow them here. They can remain inside or in a greenhouse 'til all danger of frost is over in the spring. You can transition them from outside to inside by leaving them outdoors during the day and bringing them in for the night for about a week before they are moved to their seasonal location. I usually move my plants inside the greenhouse in mid to late October. I have a small heater in the greenhouse which I turn on only when temperatures dip be-

low freezing. If you don't have a greenhouse, you should bring them into the house around this time. Be sure to check the weather for upcoming frosts.

Before bringing them in, it is a good idea to check and treat for insects. Spider mites, aphids and scale are typical insects which you may find on your citrus. Aphids can be controlled by spraying them off with water or applying an insecticidal soap. Spider mites can be controlled with Mite X, a product containing cottonseed and clove oils. Scale is a bit more difficult. A summer oil can be applied or you can wipe down each leaf with rubbing alcohol. I actually had a scale infestation on my lime and did just that. If you use any product, be sure to check the label for proper application.

Once insect free and inside the house, your lime will need a bright south facing window or grow light. Don't fertilize during

Salsa

2 cups fresh chopped tomatoes
(or 1-32 oz. can diced tomatoes)

½ cup chopped onion

¼ cup chopped Anaheim chili
(or 1-4 oz. can of diced green chiles)

2 Tbs. chopped fresh cilantro

2 Tbs. fresh lime juice

Salt to taste

Serve with your favorite tortilla chips. You can also mix 3 mashed avocados with a cup of this salsa for a delicious guacamole.



Bearrs Lime

the winter months. Water once a week unless your house is on the cooler side. Let the surface of the soil dry between watering and when you do water, make sure the root ball is completely wet and the water drains through to the saucer. It is a good idea to empty the saucer as limes do not do well in standing water. You may get flower drop, fruit drop or leaf drop if you overwater. Don't worry if you get some leaf drop when you bring your citrus inside. This is normal.

When transitioning your lime outside it will need at least 8 hours of sunlight. Mine has a prominent spot on my deck all summer long. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Allow the soil surface to dry between watering and don't allow the roots to sit in water. Using a citrus fertilizer during the spring and summer can help prevent iron deficiency. I fertilize mine with Espoma's Citrus-tone about every two months throughout the spring and summer.

Citrus is self pollinating so you only need one plant to produce juicy delicious fruit! The two most common varieties of limes that you can find at your local independent garden center are the

Kaffir lime and the Bearrs Seedless lime. The Kaffir lime's leaves and fruit are generally used in Thai and Cambodian cooking. Kaffir Lime leaves have a unique hourglass shape and the fruits are small, green and bumpy. Flowers can occur year-round but are most prevalent in the spring. The Bearrs Seedless lime produces much larger juicy fruit. When ripe the skin turns from green to yellow.

So fill a container with a lime tree and enjoy this refreshing fruit right outside your backdoor.



Kaffir Lime

PHOTO CREDIT: ROBYN JAY



Lime tree with heater in greenhouse.

A duvet cover can make a huge difference.



Pillow Talk

Rejuvenate your bedroom without pulling all the money out of your mattress.

by Sarah Gustin

PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/SAILN1

I'm an odd duck. While everyone is doing their big projects in spring, I've always done my cleaning and redecorating in winter. After the holidays I always feel the need to refresh my home for the new year. If you are looking to update your space in 2015 the best place to begin is your bedroom. Your bedroom is your haven, your place to rejuvenate and revitalize. Here are a few ideas to help you renovate your sanctuary without breaking the bank.

Paint

This is the easiest and most drastic way to redecorate your space. Your average gallon of paint won't run you more than \$20-\$50, and is plenty for giving one room a fresh new look! Either repaint the whole

room or get adventurous and try one bold accent wall.

Pinterest projects

For a fun project I always hit up pinterest. There are always fun DIY crafts that will spice up your space. Dress up your walls with projects like shelves made of updated antique drawers, personal photos printed on wood, or colorful fabric panels. Consider throwing a "pinterest party" where each person brings all the supplies for a different craft. Give your sanctuary a new look and create a memory with a friend at the same time.

Thrift stores and yard sales

The most fun way for me to redecorate is to treasure hunt in thrift stores and at yard



PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/BREAREYE

Buy your own fabric to create new curtains.

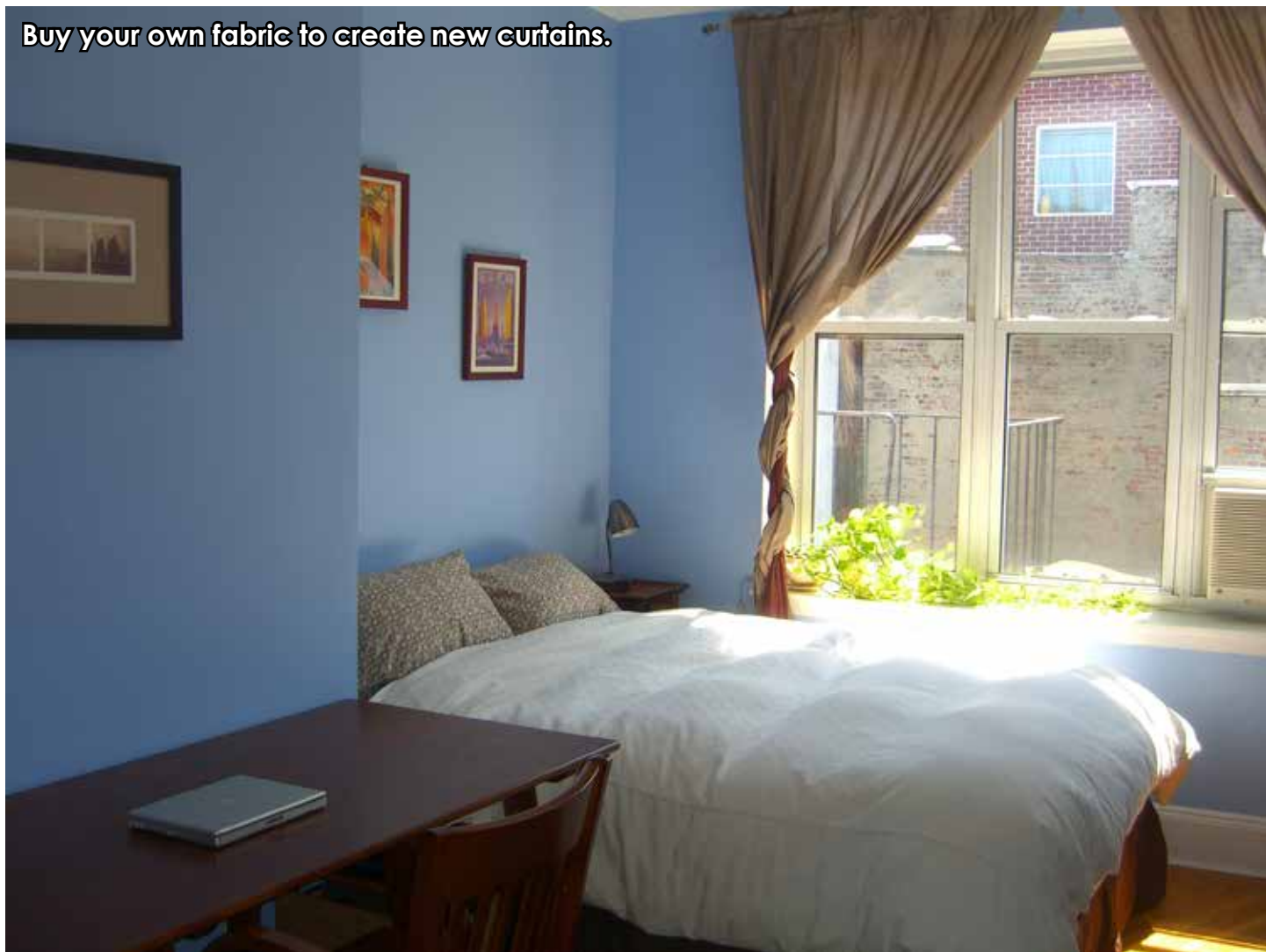


PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/PARKSLOPE1BEDROOMFORSALE

sales. If you really want to save some money, drive through a college town at the end of a term or the school year. Often times out-of-state students will leave very lightly used furniture on the side of the road. Tacky? Maybe. But no one ever suspects that my solid wood chest of drawers was sitting free next to a dormitory. Even a worn chair or desk can usually be refinished with sandpaper, paint, and a little TLC.

Candles or lamps

Changing the lighting in a room can completely change the ambiance. The harsh overhead lighting, while functional, can create a sterile, unwelcoming feeling. That's the last thing you want in your oasis. Soften the feeling of your space with candles (available cheaply at Ikea or the Dollar Tree) or table lamps. Every thrift store has tons of lamps ranging from quirky, to classy, to authentically vintage.

The most important thing to remember when doing an inexpensive redesign is...

Small accessories make a big impact

Changing just a few little things can make a big difference in your space. Throw pillows, though a little spendy, can be inexpensive when picked up at sales and dress up a boring bed. An area rug will quickly transform a space. Duvet covers are less expensive than buying a whole new comforter and usually come with matching pillow covers. Changing the hardware on cabinets or dressers can give old furniture a new look. Try looking for hardware at salvage shops like Habitat for Humanity stores or Hippo Hardware in Portland. Buy new curtains from inexpensive places like Ikea, or buy and hem your own fabric. Not a talented seamstress? Me neither. Target, Ikea, and Bed, Bath, and Beyond all carry curtain rings that have clips on them, no need for extra sewing.

The most important thing is to be comfortable in your space. Be sure to decorate with your personality. Like gardening? Look for vintage lamps decorated with hand-painted roses. Enjoy sports? How about some crossed hockey sticks on your wall. Like to travel? Incorporate prints from your travels into your bedroom decor. Whatever makes you feel relaxed and revitalized, find a way to integrate it into your new haven.

PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/TREC_LIT



PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/JAN MURIN



PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/MIKE KRZESZAK

PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/EADAOFINFLYNN



PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/MILKMAID1979

Thrift stores are a great place to find unique and decorative lamps.

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WTDITG

Welcome to 2015! In January, the air is crisp and cold, the decorations are put away, and there is a distinct lull after the craziness of the holidays. There's no better time to get outside for some fresh air and daylight... and begin your garden's best year ever!

PLANNING

- Create a garden journal for future reference of what worked best, where and when. Consider using a 3-ring binder so you can tab the months and years and add more pages where needed.



- Create a pruning calendar so you can 'Prune according to what the plants needs are'. Do a bit of research first to see how and when to prune your plants this year and you won't be disappointed. Many mistakes can be stopped before the damage is done if a little reading

takes place first. For instance on hydrangeas; cut back only the stems that had blossoms last year. The flowers for this year are going to come from the stems that grew up last year but did not have blooms on them. As a general rule, most flowering plants will perform best if you prune them after they flower. Fruit trees, shade and flowering trees can be pruned this month, but next month will be better. Thinning cuts are better than heading cuts

or 'chopping the branches back'. Again, do some research first so you won't be sorry later!

- Plan the vegetable garden. January through March is a great time to get the planning done. Create your 'garden map' with a crop rotation plan set on paper. Figure the dimensions, number of rows, planting dates, etc.



It's fun to look back on these notes to see what was planted and when, what was a great success and what was not so great. Mark this as *2013 Map* so you can rotate crops around next year. Rotating your crops discourages disease and insects.

PLANTING

- Plant Perennials. Get them planted soon for best blooming display later this summer and fall.



- Plant some bare root fruit trees. The sooner they can be planted the better the root development will

be before the trees leaf out this spring. More roots grown at this

time will allow the plant greater strength to take on summer's heat later. If you are unable to plant the trees as soon as you get them, 'heel' them into the garden soil on a temporary basis (just bury the roots into soil to keep them moist) until you can plant properly, but do get them into their permanent space in the garden as soon as possible.

- Plant any tree or shrub now that you'd like to add to your landscape. Early planting makes for a stronger start this spring.

- Plant Primroses. Every January, nurseries bring out their spring crop of primroses. Use *dark weather feed* to keep them blooming strong.



What To Do In The Garden JANUARY

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- There is still time left to clean Mason Bee cocoons, but not much! This will be the last month to be able to clean things up before the bees emerge late February or early March.



any other frost sensitive plants.

- Peach trees: Spray by mid January for peach leaf curl. Use labeled product for this disease like Bonide's Fungonil or Lilly Miller's Microcop. If weather is cool and wet spray 2-3 more times at 3-4 week intervals.

- Check your Blue Spruce for aphids! Most winters around here the spruce aphid attacks the Blue and Alberta Spruce trees. They suck on the juices on the prior season's needles and when the

new growth starts in spring, the older foliage falls off and leaves the tree looking half naked. Spraying them off with a hard stream of water will usually do the trick but insect sprays for aphids can be used too, according to directions.



layers of newspaper covered in compost.

- Mulch the beds with a new layer of organic compost, bark or other mulch.

- Dormant spray the fruit trees with horticultural Spray Oil to kill overwintering insects and their eggs. Use the Bonide Copper Fungicide spray or dust, (copper sulfate) as a disease control spray now.

- Water any plants that are underneath the overhang of the house or under wide growing evergreens, where soil can become quite dry.



VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Plant early veggies like radishes, peas, onion sets and fava beans. Start seeds indoors for leeks, lettuce, arugula, endive and onions.

- Cover your early crops with Harvest Guard row cover for best protection from cold and

insect attack. You can make a movable frame to attach Harvest Guard to with PVC pipe and rebar

driven into the ground.



starts out.

- Monitor garden soil temperature to see what you can plant and when. On the next page is a handy chart of popular veggies and what soil temperatures are ideal for them to germinate from seed, or best soil temperature for transplanting young plant

Soil Temperatures Ideal for Growing Vegetables

Vegetable	Will Germinate	Ideal Germination	Transplant Seedlings Out
Asparagus	50F-90F	70F	
Beans	60F-90F	80F	
Beats	40F-90F	80F	
Broccoli	40F-90F	80F	50F
Cabbage	40F-90F	80F	45F
Cantaloupe	60F-100F	90F	65F
Carrot	40F-90F	80F	
Cauliflower	40F-90F	80F	
Celery	40F-80F	70F	45F
Chard	40F-90F	80F	
Corn	50F-100F	80F	60F
Cucumber	60F-100F	90F	63F
Endive	40F-75F	75F	
Fava Beans	40F-65F	50F	
Lettuce	40F-75F	75F	
Okra	60F-100F	90F	70F
Onion	40F-100F	90F	45F
Parsley	40F-90F	80F	
Parsnip	40F-90F	70F	
Peas	40F-80F	70F	45F
Peppers	60F-90F	80F	65F
Pumpkin	60F-100F	90F	65F
Radish	40F-90F	80F	
Spinach	40F-80F	75F	
Squash	60F-100F	90F	65F
Tomato	50F-100F	80F	60F
Watermelon	60F-110F	90F	65F

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PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Recycle Your Poinsettia

Through Monday, January 12, 2015 • Regular Store Hours:

Al's Garden Center, Gresham, Sherwood, Woodburn, OR

Bring your holiday poinsettia in and we'll recycle it for you, plant, soil, pot and all! You will also receive a coupon for a 30% discount on a fresh, new houseplant. Cost: Free.

Your Backyard Farmers

Saturday, January 3, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Get an early jump on producing food from your backyard garden and save money by raising your own vegetable transplants! Donna & Robyn, Your Backyard Farmers, will share tips and techniques for starting your garden from seed, raising your own transplants for early spring plantings and much more!

Planning your Personal Paradise

Saturday, January 3, 2015 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Magi Treece of Living Structures. Beginner gardeners, get your dreaming kicked in gear! It may be too cold and wet to dig, but that's just what makes it a good time to get your planning done so you can have a beautiful outside living space. Learn to take your desires for what your space should be and map them onto the place you have. Magi will teach you how to map your garden, observe sun and water patterns, and other important skills to get your garden plan off to a strong start!

Art and Symbolism in the Garden

Sunday, January 4, 2015 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Landscape Consultant & Horticultural Therapist, Stephen Pettengill will teach you the basics of symbolic references commonly found in natural settings as well as art selection and placement in the garden. Whether you are considering a fountain, statuary, or just the understated power of a well-placed boulder, come and learn how this designer uses symbolism and art in customized environments. Learn to set the stage for inspiration, relaxation and socializing in your outdoor living space!

Planning for a Year-Round Harvest

Sunday, January 4, 2015 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Rachel Freifelder of Handmade Gardens/Living City. Want to have garden-fresh produce year-round, with less work than you think? Want to build healthy soil and prevent common garden problems, year after year? Want to keep your water bills down? Rachel will show you how. You'll learn how to make the most of your garden space, when to plant your favorite vegetables, and how to keep good records that will help you rotate crops and "grow it better next year". Rachel is a garden educator, designer and activist with over 20 years of experience, and grows all her own produce on her mini-farm in NE Portland. To get the most out of this class, bring a list of the 5 vegetables you most want to grow.

continued next column

Easy Care Houseplants

Saturday, January 10, 2015 • 10:00am(G)

Saturday, January 10, 2015 • 1:00pm(S)

Saturday, January 10, 2015 • 2:00pm(W)

Al's Garden Center, Gresham, Sherwood, Woodburn, OR

Did you know that growing plants indoors can contribute to good health? In this class learn how houseplants improve the air quality indoors, and which ones are simple to grow. Al's Experts will explain the conditions different houseplants prefer and how to keep them healthy in your home or office.

Cost: Seminar is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Speaker: Al's Experts.

Kids Club: Grow a Pet Treat

Saturday, January 10, 2015 • 11:00am(S)

Saturday, January 10, 2015 • 11:00am(G)

Plant an indoor treat for your dog or cat that will keep them happy during the winter months. This fun project involves scattering seeds in a shallow pet bowl and then watching them sprout into a lush, green treat that any pet would enjoy nibbling. We will talk about plants that are good for our pets and plants to keep pets away from. Cost: \$5.00 per child. Registration is required.

Raising and Caring for Mason Bees

Saturday, January 10, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Do you want to increase your fruit tree production? Of course you do! Introducing mason bees into your landscape can dramatically increase your pollination, especially during our soggy spring when honey bees aren't very active. Bee expert Brenda Calvert, of Half Moon Farm, will walk you through setting up nesting boxes and blocks, discuss the benefits of mason bees, and discuss the minimal yearly maintenance & supplies involved in keeping your hard-working friends happy.

Top 10 Orchid Myths

Saturday, January 10, 2015 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Sue Volek of the Oregon Orchid Society. There's lots of tips out there about growing orchids. Some are true and some are false. This talk will debunk some misperceptions about these beautiful plants and give you the bottom line on how to select, grow, and bloom the easiest orchid plants. S

Indoor Sprouts & Microgreens

Sunday, January 11, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

The veggie garden may be slowed down for the winter, but you can still grow super-nutritious and tasty vegetables – inside. Come join Farmer Dan for an informative seminar and demonstration on growing sprouts and microgreens for your kitchen, and some to share with your indoor animal friends.

Indoor Herb Gardening

Sunday, January 11, 2015 • 11:00am

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Laura Altvaer of Portland Nursery. Don't have much room outside? Dream of having fresh herbs

continued next page



at your fingertips in the kitchen year-round? This class will highlight which culinary herbs are easiest indoors and what supplies you will need to be successful.

Indoor Sprouts & Microgreens

Sunday, January 11, 2015 • 1:00pm
Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Farmer Dan Bravin. The veggie garden may be slowed down for the winter, but you can still grow super-nutritious and tasty vegetables – inside. Come join Farmer Dan for an informative seminar and demonstration on growing sprouts and microgreens for your kitchen, and some to share with your indoor animal friends.

Kokedama

Sunday, January 11, 2015 • 1:00pm
Al's Garden Center, Gresham, Sherwood, Woodburn, OR

Come to this hands-on workshop and you'll create your own version of this Japanese art form. We'll cover a houseplant's root ball in moss, then wrap with twine to create a hanging plant for you to take home. Cost: \$25.00 per kit, kit includes: one 4-inch plant, supplies and instruction to make 1 Kokedama. Registration is required and space is limited.

Annual Houseplant & Pottery Sale

Friday-Sunday, January 16-18, 2015 • Store Hours
Portland Nursery (Division & Stark), Portland, OR

We call January Indoor Gardening Month and at Portland Nursery, you'll find the biggest selection of houseplants around!. 30% off all houseplants and decorative pots. Purchase a plant and a pot and get a free Pot-Up! Indoor gardening classes all month long. See the Houseplant Sale Page for images from previous years or go to our Houseplant Page for more general information.

Landscape Design Process

Saturday, January 17, 2015 • 10:00am(S,G)
Saturday, January 17, 2015 • 1:00pm(W)

Al's Garden Center, Gresham, Sherwood, Woodburn, OR
 Join us for the class lead by Al's Landscape Designer, Tara (in Sherwood and Woodburn,) and Al's Expert Will (in Gresham) and find out what you need to consider and know before you redesign your yard. This helpful class will provide you with a checklist of considerations that will help you create the perfect outdoor garden space for you. Cost: Seminar is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Houseplants 101

Saturday, January 17, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Grow your green thumb just in time for our Annual Houseplant Sale! Jason Dennis (Houseplant Buyer) will teach you the basics to successfully grow houseplants and send you home confident in keeping your indoor plants happy and thriving. Jason will cover plant selection, lighting conditions, watering and fertilizing methods, correct soils to use, humidity issues, common pests, and great troubleshooting tips.

Orchids 101

continued next column

Saturday, January 17, 2015 • 11:00am
Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Michael Jenné of the Oregon Orchid Society. Orchids are so diverse, and some are easier to grow than others. In our climate, only a few are winter-hardy, so many people grow them as houseplants or in greenhouses. Michael will give a basic introduction to choosing and growing the easiest orchid varieties for success in your home.

How to Successfully Grow Cactus & Succulents

Saturday, January 17, 2015 • 1:00pm-2:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Get excited about the world of cacti and succulents! Join Houseplant Buyer Jason Dennis to learn some great tips and techniques for how to keep your plants happy and healthy in the Pacific Northwest. He will discuss soils, fertilizing, light and water requirements, specific seasonal needs, and how to get your cactus and succulents to bloom.

Houseplants for the Black of Thumb

Saturday, January 17, 2015 • 1:00pm
Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Sean Gilman of Portland Nursery. Want to adopt some green home companions, but afraid of committing planticide? Worried that you're just not a plant person, even though you want to be? Sean can help you get over the hurdle of the first successful houseplant, going over how to know which plants will survive in the conditions you have to offer. Basic care, site selection, simple troubleshooting, and recommended plants will be featured in this workshop.

Houseplant Begonias

Sunday, January 18, 2015 • 11:00am
Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Gary Crook of Plantsmith. Add color and texture to your houseplant display with begonias! Gary is a begonia grower and hybridizer; he'll talk about the different classes of begonias you'll find, their characteristics and needs, with example plants for those classes so you can see the differences. You'll also learn about new varieties coming up in the begonia world! www.plantsmith.com.

Out Growing Your Garden?

Sunday, January 18, 2015 • 1:00pm-2:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Horticultural Therapist & Landscape Consultant, Stephen Pettengill will discuss Aging in Place, to re-evaluate your present garden to match your current lifestyle. He will teach tricks that will help you incorporate your changing interests and lifestyle choices in order to maximize the rewarding aspect of your outdoor living space.

Stitches in Bloom Quilt Show

Friday-Sunday, January 23-25, 2015 • 10:00am-4:00pm
The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

The Stitches in Bloom Quilt Show is the last weekend in January, the 23rd – 25th from 10am to 4pm. The show will feature more than 100 beautiful quilts, vendors selling quilting wares, lectures by featured artist Cynthia Corbin and demon-

continued on page 33



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- *The magnificent Rothschild villa and gardens at Saint Jean Cap Ferret*
- *Tutored wine tastings and a vineyard tour by horse-drawn carriage*
- *Experience the flavours & colours of Provençale markets*
- *Visit to a perfume house in the historic city of Grasse*

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**Link to this information at:
www.GardenTime.tv/tours**



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town, Continued

strations by quilting vendors. Enjoy the Tea Room, presented by Stash Tea, where lunch fare and specialty items will be available for purchase. Quilt Show Admission: Admission to the Quilt Show is included with Garden Admission: \$11 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8 for students, \$5 for kids 5-11, free for children 4 and under, free for Garden members. Volunteer at the event and receive free admission! For more information, contact volunteer@oregongarden.org or 503-874-2533.

Mobile Tool Sharpening

Saturday, January 24, 2015 • 9:00am-2:00pm

Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, OR

Do your garden tools need sharpened? Come to Al's of Woodburn where Jim Agee, from Burroughs Electric of Salem, will provide tool sharpening services to Al's customers. Drop them off when you arrive, and pick them up the same day. No electric or gas hedge trimmers at this event. Woodburn store only. Cost: Most hand tools \$5 - \$10 each. Registration is not required.

Fruit Trees

Saturday, January 24, 2015 • 10:00am

Al's Garden Center, Gresham, Sherwood, Woodburn, OR

Do you want to grow your own apples, pears or cherries? Join us for this class and learn the basics on how to plant, fertilize and water fruit trees. It's easier than you might think, and a delicious way to produce home grown fruit for your family. Registration is not required.

Pruning Fruit Trees

Saturday, January 24, 2015 • 11:00am

Al's Garden Center, Gresham, Sherwood, Woodburn, OR

Pruning fruit trees correctly can increase your harvest and improve tree health. In this class, you'll learn the basic steps on how to prune fruit trees. Whether your trees are young or old, they'll benefit from proper pruning techniques. Cost: Seminar is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Raising and Caring for Honey Bees

Saturday, January 24, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Are you a honey fan? Interested in "growing" your own? Join bee keeping expert Brenda Calvert, of Half Moon Farm, as she explores the fundamentals of backyard beekeeping. She will discuss the different styles and supplies needed to start your own colony, organic techniques, and how to get the most out of your honey production.

Growing Edible Mushrooms Indoors

Saturday, January 24, 2015 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Nikhilesh Desai of MycoCascadia. Learn how mushrooms grow and how you can grow them in your own home, too! Join local mycologist and co-founder of MycoCascadia, Nikhilesh Desai, and discover the fascinating world of fungi. Beginning with a brief overview of how mushrooms do what they do, the class will cover methods of oyster and shiitake mushroom cultivation for the home grower and ideas on how to incorporate these delectable fungi into delicious dishes.

(Starter kits will be available for purchase at the class for \$20 each (cash or check to the instructor)."

How to shape an Espaliered Fruit Tree

Sunday, January 25, 2015 • 1:00pm

Al's Garden Center, Gresham, Sherwood, Woodburn, OR

Join us for this hands-on workshop where Al's Experts will help you select and prune a bare root fruit tree into an espaliered fruit tree. You'll also learn about the benefits of espaliered fruit trees. Some of those benefits are: allowing more light to reach the fruit, the ability to plant in a narrower strip of land, and adding the beauty of an espaliered tree to your landscape. In this workshop you'll select 1 bare root fruit tree to prune yourself and take home to plant. Space is limited and registration is required for this special class. Registration is required. Cost: \$75 per person. Workshop includes: 1 bare root single variety tree, a pair of new pruners, a roll of stretch tie, for securing the tree to your support at home, a small bag of Al's Transplant Fertilizer, a bag of NW Best Soil Builder and Top Dressing, to plant your tree with at home.

Indoor Herb Gardening

Sunday, January 25, 2015 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Join the Garden Delights Gals, Erin and Eloyce, to learn how to grow herbs indoors for year round use and enjoyment. Types of containers, soil mixes, light, watering, and starting with seeds vs. cuttings will be covered. Tips, tricks and techniques will be shared to help you get your windowsill herb garden going this winter and many winters to come!

Mini Jurassic Park Terrarium Workshop

Sunday, January 25, 2015 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Annie Colombo. Add some drama to your mini-landscape with dinosaurs! We assure you that this dinosaur theme park is perfectly safe; your family need not fear rampaging velociraptors escaping from their glass habitat. Join Annie Colombo to make a tiny window to another world with a fern jungle or a forbidding rocky landscape where beasts of another time may roam wild. Materials fee of \$30 payable to the cashier before class. Limited to 10 students.

Natural Perfume & Essential Oil Distillation

Saturday, January 31, 2015 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Join Jessica Ring of Ring Botanicals as she creates a natural Northwest forest perfume with her distillations of native and local herbs, flowers, and trees. Don't miss this chance to purchase synthetic-free botanical perfumes and local essential oils!

LOOKING FOR MORE?

You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar
www.gardentime.tv/events.htm

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