

# CHASE GARDEN



# View

A Garden Conservancy Preservation Project



## Chats with the Chases Rosina (R) and Ione (I), while reviewing photographs of the garden in October 1997

**R:** Okay, look at the colors in here.

**I:** They're beautiful!

**R:** You got wonderful bright red over in the mixed shrub bed. Uh, what is that...Euon...shoot. What do you have down there?

**I:** Oh, the Burning Bush? Yes, Euonymous.

**R:** You have that in there?

**I:** I think that's the top of it you see there. It's down lower.

**R:** And then you've got...oh, you've got the Japanese maple to the left of the Hydrangea tree that's down where the stone pathway is. That's coming up through. And then an Azalea that's red and I like that conifer, the Fern Spray Cypress that's such a dark wonderful green.

**I:** That needs pruning back, very badly. It's getting woody looking.

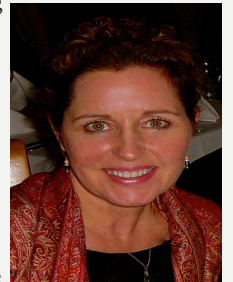
**R:** So will it come back from old growth?

**I:** Oh, I think it will. Sure, what tree won't? And besides, I've got two Japanese maples (seedlings) that turn just brilliant red, some are better than others, you know. And I want to put them along the road there. There's one above the deer and I want fairly close groupings of three Japanese maples there on the cut bank, top of the cut bank.



## New Face, New Roof

As the season comes to an end, we see a new face in the garden. Lori Taylor, a Northwest native, brings with her years of outreach, marketing and management experience, along with her love for beautiful gardens. As the new Manager/Outreach Coordinator, Lori is eager to leverage her professional experience and her passion for beautiful gardens joining The Garden Conservancy's preservation efforts at Chase Garden. She is looking forward to helping raise funds as well as the public's awareness and welcoming more visitors to Chase Garden. Carol Saynisch, who served as Chase's Manager/Outreach Coordinator since March, has returned to her work training the military in media techniques and procedures. She accomplished a great deal in the short time she was here, setting in place a foundation on which to build the future of Chase Garden.



In addition to the new face, the installation of our new cedar shingle roof is underway. The life of the cedar shake roof has exceeded its life expectancy and it is time to be replaced. Here is some history regarding the roof at Chase Garden:

Construction of Emmott and Ione Chase's house began in 1957. The roof was completed before they moved into their home on Emmott's 49th birthday May 19, 1959. The rafters were fir and the lumber used to line the eaves was pine which is not prone to splitting. The original shakes were cut by hand and packed out of the woods. These were 3/4" old growth cedar, 24" long with 8 inches exposed to the weather. Emmott, with help from Electron friends applied the original



shakes. The carport building was erected in 1970 to store tools, a truck and a boat. The shakes that are currently being replaced were done on the house in 1993 and the carport in 1996 at a cost of \$12,000 for the house and \$3,800 for the carport. The price tag today is more than double but well worth the beautiful facelift that will help restore the house to its original splendor. Emmott would consider nothing other than a natural shake roof. He remarked that it would be sacrilege to use a metal roof on their cabin in Canada.



## Membership Enrollment Fall 2015

- \$35 Individual
- \$50 Family
- Enclosed \$100 Supporting
- \$200 Club/Society
- \$250 Sustaining
- \$500 Business
- \$1000 Patron
- \$5000 Founding
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me!

- My check/money order is enclosed
- Please charge my  Visa  MasterCard  Amex

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please email form to Chase Garden, PO Box 8, Kapowsin WA 98344

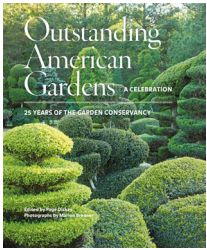
# Fall Foliage

## Don't miss it!

Now through October 31st, Wednesdays ~ Sundays from 10-3.

As the days get cooler, the air more crisp, the leaves are turning brilliant yellows, reds and golds. A truly lovely time to visit the garden. Fall is the best time to plant and there are still great plants for sale in our nursery.

### Garden Conservancy's 25th Anniversary



We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary with a beautiful book that showcases fifty outstanding public and private gardens that we have worked with since our founding in 1989. The book will be released by Abrams on September 22 and showcases eight gardens we have helped preserve and 42 of the more than 3,000 private gardens

across the country that have been opened to the public through our Open Days program.

The private gardens cover a wide variety of regions, habitats, designs, and plants, from early spring through autumn. Featured private gardens include Panayoti Kelaidis's rock garden in Denver, CO; Deborah Whigham and Gary Ratway's collection of native and Mediterranean plants and earth walls in Albion, CA; and James David's imaginative mix of heat-tolerant plants, rills, and pools in Austin, TX.

Stunning photographs and engaging narrative bring the stories of these diverse and remarkable gardens to life.

### Chase Garden Contact Information

#### Mailing Address:

PO Box 8, Kapowsin WA. 98344

#### Website:

[www.chasegarden.org](http://www.chasegarden.org)

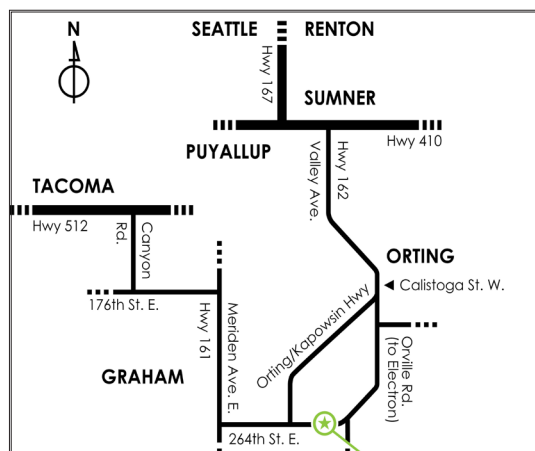
#### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/TheChaseGarden](https://www.facebook.com/TheChaseGarden)

For Tours, Information, Newsletter or to Volunteer:

Call Lori Taylor @ 360-893-6739 or email [chaseoutreach@gardenconservancy.org](mailto:chaseoutreach@gardenconservancy.org)

Visit The Chase Garden  
16015 264th Street East  
Orting, Washington 98360



## Fall Plant Profile

### Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)

By Will Clausen

Chase Garden Lead Horticulturist

Autumn offers welcome relief to any garden. That is especially true after the excessive drought and heat that we have experienced at Chase Garden this summer. And for the gardener, the relief is palpable. As the temperatures drop, the sun intensity lessens, and rain returns, the final flowers bloom and fade away, the show switches to the colorful foliage of deciduous trees and shrubs. Even though the stress of this summer has caused some plants to drop their leaves earlier than normal, this autumn is still a brilliant time to see a different type of color in the garden.

Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) is one of my favorite contributors to the fall color. The multi-stemmed shrub can grow up to 8 feet high and achieve the same width with large dark green oak leaf-like leaves. Starting in early fall, the leaves turn brilliant color ranging from deep red to purple to bronze which are splattered across the leaves. The sight of the large multicolored oak shaped leaves can be incredible. These leaves tend to hang on well into winter, much like the oak trees that they are named after.

It is not only about the fall foliage with oakleaf hydrangeas. Panicles of showy sterile flowers put on a good show during mid to late summer. The large conical shaped flower heads start white and slowly turn pink and finally brown as the flowers age. The bark is also noteworthy. Older stems tend to have a peeled back outer bark layer that exposes the inner bark layer. The inner bark is a sort of cinnamon color that is really beautiful and adds some winter interest.

Native to the southeast corner of the United States, oakleaf hydrangea is different from many other species of hydrangeas in ways beyond appearance alone. To the wise gardener anticipating a potentially drier and warmer climate in the future, the most important difference is that they tend to be more resistant to drought and heat than other species of hydrangeas. I can attest to that from personal experience from this past summer. Our oakleaf hydrangea never seemed in serious duress even as most of our other hydrangeas were wilting on a nearly daily basis as the rainless days dragged on and the temperatures soared high above average.

Another important distinction from many other hydrangeas is that oakleaf hydrangeas flower on old growth. This means flower buds develop on the plant during late summer the year before they bloom and not on the growth that develops in the spring. Because of this, it is important to do any pruning that you need to do directly after the plant has finished blooming. Pruning in the winter or spring will remove the flower buds and result in less than flower-filled shrub in the summer. Oakleaf hydrangeas don't actually require much pruning unless it has been planted in a spot that is too small for it. However, older plants can benefit from selective pruning of up to a third or so of the oldest stems in order to promote healthy rejuvenation and to create a more compact habit.

The ideal placement site will receive plenty of morning light, but also a healthy dose of shade in the afternoon. They are an understory plant in the wild and so even though we are far north of their natural range they will still appreciate a good amount of shade. Beware however that too much shade is said to reduce the intensity of the fall color. As with other hydrangeas, they do best in soil that is slightly more acidic than average that has good drainage. These shrubs are interesting enough to justify planting only one and treating it as a specimen, but they also look good grouped together.

I will admit I have a strange bias toward this plant because of my love for oak trees, but oakleaf hydrangeas stand up of their own accord. Having that perfect combination of being low maintenance and showy through three seasons, it is a plant that I can't recommend highly enough. Besides, they have fall color most oaks can only dream of.

## Fall Fireworks

By Dr. Brent Chapman

State of Washington Capitol Campus Horticulturist

September and October are glorious months in the Northwest – lots of sunshine, pleasant temperatures and plants revealing their inner foliage colors. Creating carpets or horizontal drifts of color is a common garden design practice that is always effective in unifying diverse plantings and drawing garden visitors' eyes through various garden segments. Another way to create dramatic color displays, including in the fall, is to go vertical. Think about how modern fireworks are visually stacked one upon another and are timed to explode simultaneously, creating magnificent collages of color in the sky. This same tightly packed display of color can be achieved by arranging plants with exceptional fall color in vertical layers. Consider this composition as an example of creating a vertical collage of fall color with plants. In the same planting space, start with a base of New England fall asters mixed with black mondo grass. Overlay these foundation plants with monkshood and black-eyed Susan. The culminating color in this vertical display could be achieved with a Burgundy lace Japanese maple. All of these plants display brilliant and contrasting fall colors at the same time of the year. What combinations of fall colors plants might you stack vertically to simulate fall fireworks in your garden?