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**March 2009**

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## **Dear Reader,**

In November, my newsletter mentioned Thanksgiving and how I felt my whole life was blessed, as it were, with a sprinkling of *good luck*—much like a garden well fertilized. Recently a few sad items have happened to me: winter was harsh and spring is cold; the Seattle PI newspaper is history after 146 years; my Aunt Carol died after 84 years; the Northwest Flower & Garden Show *may be* history after 21 years; and my beloved girlfriend told me I am history after not even one year . . . ☹

But for every sad thing, at least one glad thing ☺ exists, and on the whole *Life is Good!* Everyone deals with sadness differently. The lengthening days, increasing greenery and bright flowers of April will give much warm cheer. Fresh savory greens from the garden will boost vitality. Socially interacting with kind hearted plant lovers in all of the following events will be swell. I hope *you* have a good spring, too.

**March tours:** Every month this year I hope to lead at least one tour. The late March ones are:

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>: **Green Lake** 10:00–12:00

In 1992 I published the book *Trees of Green Lake*. Then, 162 different kinds of trees circled the lake; now over 200 exist (listed on my website). This 2-hour tour will not get *all* the way around the lake. It will loop around the north and northwest part. When over, anyone who wants is welcome to join me for lunch. *Meet* by the front doors of community center on the east shore.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>: **Good Shepherd Center** 3:00–5:00

Wallingford's Good Shepherd Center is a local mecca of plant diversity. Many rare species were planted by Gil Schieber & Seattle Tilth gardeners. This tour will include both wild (weedy) and planted species. *Meet* at the east (main) entrance of the Good Shepherd Center (4649 Sunnyside Ave N)

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>: **U.W. campus** 3:00–5:00

The U.W. campus has tremendous diversity of landscape plants, plus wild ones. Many rare trees and shrubs were planted by forestry professors, botanists, and gardeners. We will encounter many fascinating specimens. *Meet* in front of the Burke Museum (not far from 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE & NE 45<sup>th</sup> St).

For more information, please contact me or visit my website. The cost per participant is \$10 (*i.e.*, \$9.18 plus \$.82 sales tax). Payment by cash or checks only. If you'd like that I e-mail you a *monthly tour update*, let me know.

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**Heritage Tree Dedication:** PlantAmnesty's Heritage Tree Program recognizes select Seattle trees as special. The tree this time is a grand old Pear. The dedication ceremony is free: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>: 27<sup>th</sup> Ave and E Cherry Street @noon For details, contact either me or visit my website or [www.PlantAmnesty.org](http://www.PlantAmnesty.org).

**Miller Library Used Book Sale:** Every year the Elisabeth C. Miller Library (at the U.W. Center for Urban Horticulture) hosts a used book sale of *plant and garden books*. There are two events:

Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Wine and Cheese Preview Party and Book Sale 5:00–8:00 pm—cost is a \$20 ticket that must be bought by the 2<sup>nd</sup>. (I will be there this evening, selling and signing my books.)

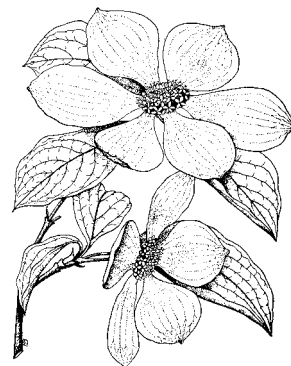
Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>: Book Sale 9:00am–3:00pm;free. For details, either contact me or the library at 543-0415 or visit the website: <http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/index.shtml>.

**Book autographs:** it pleases me to do custom artwork autographs in my books. That is, besides my signature, I ask the book buyer which plant he or she desires me to draw in *color*. People love these sketches. So, kindly consider some autographed books as gifts, or for yourself.

**Colvos Creek Nursery Plant Sale:** Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> thru Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am until 5:00pm. The nursery is owned by landscape architect and artist Michael Lee. It is on Vashon Island. The website is: <http://ColvosCreekNursery.com/> (I hope to attend on Sunday.) All plants are 25% off!

**PlantAmnesty's Mother's Day Festival of Trees**

Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 4:00 at Sand Point Magnuson Park (7400 Sandpoint Way NE). Your free admittance includes classes, workshops & demonstrations, exhibits & vendors; music, magic, juggling, parades, acrobatics & comedy; activities for kids of all ages. The food vendors sell healthy, locally produced foods. I will be there all day, both lecturing and being available to chat and sign books. Other speakers include Linda Chalker-Scott, Ciscoe Morris, Cass Turnbull, and Marty Wingate. For more information visit the website: <http://www.plantamnesty.org>



**Open Garden:** During **June** I will host another weekend Open Garden for Friday the **19<sup>th</sup>**, Saturday the **20<sup>th</sup>** and Sunday the **21<sup>st</sup>**, from noon until 6:00. The longest days of the year. Then you can visit my garden in Seattle's Montlake neighborhood. Maybe another Montlake garden or two will also be open for your pleasure.

Over the years on various occasions I open my garden for touring. Visitors can view my books, and buy copies if desired. I am present to chat, sign books, and act the gracious host.

The garden is of southwest exposure on a steep hillside. It is *not* wheelchair accessible; it has 52 steps. Trees abound, native and otherwise. Recycled materials are used often.

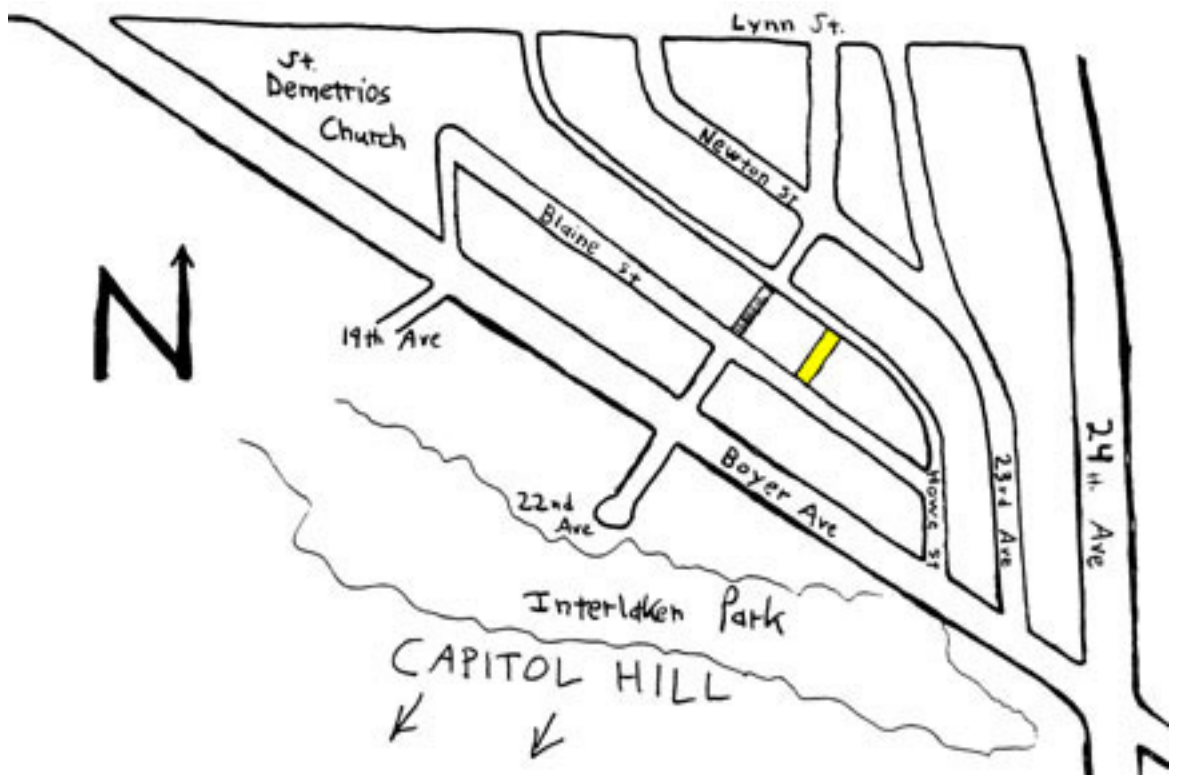
Native trees and shrubs include a massive white pine (under which socializing occurs), red cedar, Douglas fir, dogwood, hazel, tall and low Oregon grape, mock orange, and salal. Other than trees and shrubs that were there to begin with, I have acquired and planted mostly *fragrant* and *edible* plants, in an eclectic, informal fashion.

Over 450 kinds of annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, vines, flowers, trees, shrubs, and even intentional cultivated weeds—are all mixed together; I do not segregate by category. This time I will put out many more *labels* supplying plant names—as some rare plants perplex visitors.

Specific plants of note include: Chilean Hazel (*Gevuina Avellana*) 23' tall; Evergreen Dogwood (*Cornus capitata*) 25' tall; Pineapple Guava (*Feijoa Sellowiana*) 15½' tall; Banana Shrub (*Michelia Figo*) 12' tall; *Eucalyptus Dalrympleana* 83½' tall; and a magnificent female English Holly 52' tall.

### Directions to my garden:

Find Montlake neighborhood, between the U.W. and Capitol Hill. Once there, go to E **Blaine** Street—two blocks in between St Demetrios Greek Church and Boyer Children's Clinic. My place is told by the **fire hydrant**, 150 square feet of **bamboo**, and a massive **pine tree**. If you want to ride METRO, numbers 43 and 48 as well as any going to the Montlake Freeway Station get you close enough.



### Status of my various publications:

*Wild Plants of Greater Seattle* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2008)

*Trees of Seattle* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2006)

*Selected Writings of Esiquio Narro* (2005)  
(edited by Arthur Lee Jacobson)

*Trees at the Locks* (2004)  
out of print; I hope to update it

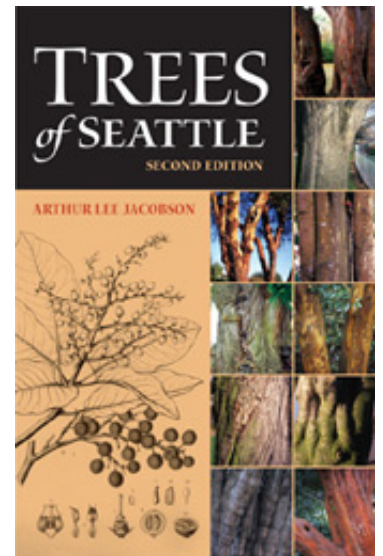
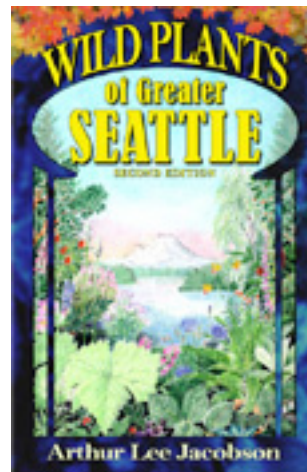
*North American Landscape Trees* (1996)  
out of print; I hope to update it

*Brockman Memorial UW Campus Tree Tour* (1993)  
out of print; but is on-line

*Trees of The Bloedel Reserve* (1992)

*Trees of Green Lake* (1992)

*Purpleleaf Plums* (1992)  
out of print



# Selected Writings of Esiquio Narro 1949–1997

ISBN 0-9622918-3-8

A book selected and published by Arthur Lee Jacobson.

ALL profits from this book are donated to the Miller Horticulture Library.

Order now and I will deliver or mail you copies, or you can visit me to get them.

Following are two extracts from the Narro book (the *whole text* is on my website):

## Character and interpersonal interactions September 7, 1984

When I was a young man, I had a banana plantation in Mexico. Every two weeks the bunches of bananas had to be harvested and brought to a shipping point on the railroad. I had very little money left by the time production began, so I used my horse and two donkeys to carry eighteen bunches, or twelve if they were large, wrapped in blankets made of burlap and banana leaves.

The horse was gentle and never objected to the several trips that had to be made as production reached a peak, but the donkeys rebelled. They would bite and refuse to go in the direction of the railroad. I did not want to whip them as others did their animals. I decided to give them a little corn with sugar when we arrived at the shipping point. I did it every time. After three times they were eager to get there all the time.

I had used Indian laborers to plant and cultivate the plantation, so I decided to give them something at the end of each workday, as they finished “48 squares” between banana plants planted 16' × 16' or 20' × 20'. I gave each a shot of rum and a sweet roll to take home. I had heard complaints from other planters that some men did not finish their tasks. I never had any problem.

I had been taught by my parents to be considerate of others, no matter who they were, and to treat all persons with respect. I found this to result in many friendships and good relations. But some planters yelled at their men and called them stupid and other names. The men would go someplace else as soon as someone offered them work.

When one got sick, I would take him or her to the doctor and also to the local medicine man. I did not want anyone dying while working for me. I gave them corn, beans, and other foods when we had abundance. They always came back after they went home to plant or harvest their own crops. I gave them clothes and toys for their kids, and they responded by doing extra work without being asked.

One time I sold a cow and it turned out to have T.B., so I took it back and returned the money. The man I had sold it to became my life-long friend. The cow, with care, got well. Its condition was brought on by low calcium and other nutrients, so I began to enrich the diet of all my animals with bone flour, minerals, and vitamins. Soon everyone was doing it, particularly with horses and oxen which are very important.

One time I was robbed of my suitcase full of clothes while I traveled from a distant village in the jungle. They took all I had, except the clothes I had on. The horse was rented, and they knew it, so they did not take it. This taught me to appreciate honest people more and not to take them for granted, but it made me a little suspicious. These robbers were later caught stealing calves and slaughtering them. They were hanged near where they were caught. Maybe they were poor and hungry, but they could have worked if they had wanted to.

As I look back I realize that interaction with people molded my character. When I was fourteen I was a little too sassy. One time I called an older boy some name, and he promptly gave me a black eye. I never was sassy again. Humans are shaped by those around them, and if they get a good or bad reaction from someone they soon learn to change their behavior. The great determinants of behavior seem to be culture and interaction with other people and situations.

## Tannhäuser March 23, 1983

Wagner's music contrasts the emotions of sensual and spiritual love. Our lives are lived mainly through our emotions.

A well-educated and informed intelligence can analyze each situation and consider alternatives. It can lead to choices that are pragmatic and best for all concerned. But without emotions, intelligence could not cope with daily life.

Education and training can teach us to keep emotions within bounds. They act like voltage regulators in electric circuits. We learn to control the floods of fear, anger, and even love. We learn to not be easily off ended or upset by events of little importance, or by details that do not really matter. We learn to accept some losses and to not rejoice in others' misfortunes.

Yet, sooner or later, at the right age, most of us succumb to love. Often all the reasoning in the world has no effect. And the loss of a loved one is a great disaster.

And who can remain unemotional in the face of failure, rejection, misunderstanding, injustice, discrimination, and being victimized?

Apprehension, fear, suspicion, uncertainty, strangeness, discomfort, nervousness, hesitation, doubt, and all shades of feelings of insecurity can overwhelm one in some situations.

*Othello* is a story of a great and powerful man who is led by one of his officers, Iago, to believe that his wife, Desdemona, was unfaithful. The emotional volcano of suspicion, betrayal, insult, misunderstanding, unjust accusations, and inevitable doom engulfs the man and his wife while Iago secretly gloats. After Othello strangles Desdemona, he discovers, to his horror, that the scarf used as evidence had been found by Iago's wife where Desdemona had inadvertently dropped it. Now guilt takes over, and horror at the deed perpetrated. Emotions are provoked at first by *imagined* wrongs and later by real deeds.

No wonder propagandists love to stir up people's emotions without providing enough accurate information to enable the audiences to control their feelings.

Life is enriched by emotions, but they can also be abused and misused. A person can wallow in sorrow, self-pity, fear, and a poor self-image, all because of elements in situations that are not, in reality, at all as imagined.

Throughout the ages humans have imagined all kinds of terrors. The night, fog, cold, storms, tragedies, crimes, wars, injustices, catastrophes, and calamities have inspired a world of horrors. The opposite is also the case. Others have dwelt on imaginary pleasures far greater than any real ones. The idea of heaven may have grown from this.

If one lives to old age, one may suffer loneliness and fear of illness and death. For this reason one should cultivate family and friends throughout life and accept the reality of the end, since all living things die. In fact, even nonliving things decay in time.

Throughout the ages, human imagination has created worlds beyond the real world. Such worlds become real in some cultures, leading to lives ruled and determined by the imaginary order of things. Such worlds have often been the opposite or quite different from reality, and whole populations have lived as if hallucinated. There is no end yet to imaginary worlds. Many people create their own. Most are harmless, but, now and then, some are not.



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Please mail to:

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## History of this newsletter

In 1988 I began a simple mailing list, mostly of people who bought a book, attended a tour, or hired me. Due to people moving, asking to be removed, or dying, there is gradual shrinkage. But new names keep on coming. Almost 600 of you are *mailed* this newsletter; an additional 300+ prefer that I send an **e-mail version** (Adobe PDF). Please let me know *your* preferences. Thanks.

## My availability for hire

**Consultations** mostly involve a client seeking unlimited access to my brain for an hour or two, wherein I supply verbal or written expert advice. This service is \$75/hour.

**Hands-on work** usually involves half a day or more, and can involve partners with trucks, *etc.* It is less costly per hour, and clients can pick my brain as I work—a swell bonus. I do finesse pruning, intelligent planting or transplanting, and the like. My rate is \$40/hour, and Olympia demands sales tax, unlike on consultations.

- 1) Most evergreens I prune anytime
- 2) Heavy cutting back of evergreens is best in late winter before spring growth (right now)
- 3) Most deciduous shrubs and trees, if pruned for size control, are best done in *active growth*—as winter pruning stimulates strong regrowth
- 4) If my \$40 per hour is thought costly, I can team up with co-workers who are less per hour
- 5) Enough people close to where I live hire me that I no longer need to travel far away. But if you contact me needing help, I may be able to *refer* someone competent to assist you. The more of us who minimize our commuting, the less traffic, less stress, and better-off we all are.

Another service provided is **custom tours**. Want a tour of trees or plants at a favorite park or neighborhood? Get some friends to share the cost and hire me as your guide. Small groups are best; no more than 20. The tour fee depends on the length, location, and size of group; \$60/hour. Custom slide lectures are also available.



Sherry Perrine photograph; February 2009

### **Wild Plants of Greater Seattle** 2nd ed.

Special price includes postage, \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ copies  
(9% sales tax: 18.35 + 1.65 = \$20.00)

### **Trees of Seattle** ISBN 0-9622918-4-6 [\$28.95]

Special price includes postage, \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ copies  
(9% sales tax: 22.94 + 2.06 = \$25.00)

### **Trees of Green Lake** ISBN 0-9622918-1-1 [\$9.95]

Price includes postage, \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ copies  
(9% sales tax: 9.17 + .83 = \$10.00)

### **Selected Writings of Esiquio Narro**

ISBN 0-9622918-3-8 [\$19.95]

Price includes postage, \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ copies  
(9% sales tax: 18.35 + 1.65 = \$20.00)

### **The Herbal Center of Healing**

ISBN 1-890693-02-2 [\$29.95]

by Gary J. Lockhart

Price includes postage, \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ copies  
(9% sales tax: 18.35 + 1.65 = \$20.00)

### **Seattle Trees-of-the-Streets** map

(sold by, but not produced by, ALJ; for more details about this map, please visit my website . . . I have *few copies left*—first come, first served.)

Price includes postage, \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_ copies  
(9% sales tax: 7.34 + .66 = \$8.00)

### **Total order:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(sorry; **checks** only; if you care to use credit cards, my website accepts them.) Please note any *auto-graph* instructions, or *whatever* you care to tell me:

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