



Dear Reader,

This issue has a brief pruning article for you, and highlights a few events. I hope to see you at one.

Seattle Summer Fruit Festival and Pruning Workshop Sunday, Aug 2nd -- 10:00am - 3:00pm

This workshop sold out last year. Come and learn the why, when, and how of summer fruit-tree pruning. The morning class is followed by afternoon demonstrations on real trees and some hands-on pruning time for students. There are apple, pear, cherry, plum, peach, and persimmon trees for you to see and learn about. From rehabilitating classic backyard apple trees to training young trees and learning espalier techniques, there's something for everyone desirous of producing homegrown fruit. Also, you can learn about the brand new efforts in **mapping Seattle fruit trees**.

Registration: The fee is a sliding scale of \$50 - \$75. Limited work/trades may be available as our philosophy is that everyone should have equal access to quality food. (Delicious lunch is included.) For more information or to register, email LLB@consultant.com or call (206) 356-7768.

Sponsorship: This Summer Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop and other workshops on urban farming are organized by Serendipity Gardens, a SPOT Urban Farm, with a coalition of teachers from several fruit tree, permaculture, and pruning-related organizations. Proceeds benefit PlantAmnesty and the non-profit organizations represented by the teachers.

Some Thoughts on Pruning by ALJ

The vast majority of the pruning I do is done with an objective of **controlling plant size**, keeping wires or buildings or paths clear, for esthetic balance, view preservation, sunlight management, and so on.

Another big category of pruning is **decongesting** or **thinning** plants such as camellias or purpleleaf plum trees, in order to make them less oppressive dark blobs; to render them a bit elegant and airy.

For **fruit trees** the goals are harvestability, sunlight penetration, crop yield, and climbability.

Ten pruning examples that are **motivated to control pests**:

- 1) Deadheading butterfly bush, *Verbena bonariensis*, ivy berries, etc.—so weedy reseeding is reduced.
- 2) Pruning elm trees in winter only—as pruning in summer makes them attractive to bark beetles.
- 3) Pruning (pinching) off lower leaves and thinning foliage on tomato plants—to delay late blight.
- 4) Pruning off apple twigs with powdery mildew.

- 5) Pruning tent caterpillar or fall webworm nests.
- 6) Thoroughly dead-wooding and thinning a rhodie that has powdery mildew (or a camellia with sooty mold)—in hope that better air circulation and light penetration may reduce the disease.
- 7) Pruning off all cherry twig ends diseased with bacterial canker—in hope of having less of it.
- 8) Pruning away old raspberry leaves and canes after they have borne—to minimize disease spores.
- 9) Pruning a Japanese apricot tree in July—to reduce the spread of fungal diseases, and so the pruning cuts will callus over quickly.
- 10) Pruning away vegetation that *shades* sun-loving plants, stressing and making the latter more susceptible to diseases or insects. Such as a sun-loving juniper infected by *Phomopsis* twig blight, being shaded by ivy. Or a dwarf apple tree all scabby in part because a maple shades it.

Just as important as pruning, is the overall garden layout, as in balance of plants, proper siting of each plant in regard to light needs, water needs, soil needs, temperature needs. Too much watering, or shade, or mulch, or other problems such as compacted soil, root cutting, poisoned soil, less than ideal pH, and what-not, are all common. The gardener must, for maximum success, be aware of the differing needs of a multiple of plants, and must juggle peoples' preferences, time and monetary limits, the weather, safety concerns, and so on.

When people seek visual perfection—such as no fallen leaves, immaculate lawns, and unblemished foliage—it requires extremely high maintenance, and often in such as cases there is a desire for much shearing and formal pruning. Such pruning is frequently stressful to shrubs and trees and can make them more apt to be attacked by bugs or diseases.

When I work for clients, all of the above is in my consciousness, and much of it is shared in my words. Alas, some pruners exist who are relatively unaware, or may be aware yet don't care. A few ISA-certified arborists are unethical, and will overcharge, declare safe trees hazardous, and the like. In few professions besides pruning, are the *majority* of practitioners best avoided by clients. Hence the need for **PlantAmnesty**.

(While I am on the subject, most landscape architects know plants insufficiently, and therefore repeatedly design plantings that present maintenance and pest/disease problems. It is extremely unfortunate that even at an institution of *higher learning* such as the University of Washington, the prize Yoshino Cherry trees are being replaced with grafted rather than own-root specimens --a guarantee of a shorter-lived, less healthy tree.)

Welcome to my Open Garden in August:

During **August** my Open Garden dates are Friday the **21st**, Saturday the **22nd** and Sunday the **23rd**, from noon until 5:00. Please visit my garden in Seattle's Montlake neighborhood. Now & then I open my garden for touring (150 people came in June.) Visitors can view my books—and often those of other writers—and buy copies if desired. I am present to chat, sign books, and act the gracious host. Art work made by Seattle artists is often present to view and/or purchase. I will provide drinks for your refreshment.

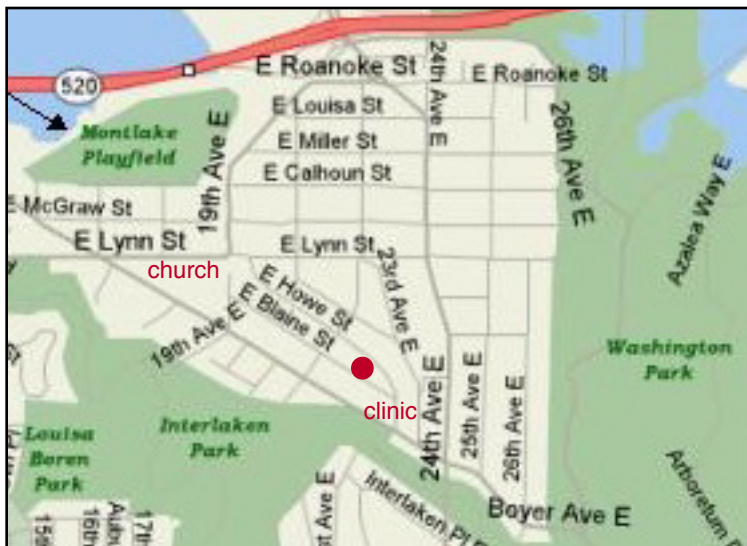
The garden is of southwest exposure on a steep hillside. It is *not* wheelchair accessible; it has 52 steps. Trees abound, native and otherwise, so it is shady. Recycled materials are used often.

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 mostly *fragrant* and *edible* plants, in an eclectic, informal fashion.

Over 500 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 about 240 *labels* supplying plant names—as some rare plants perplex visitors. Some of my scented geraniums are: Citronella-scented, Cinnamon, Coconut, Lemon, Mexican Sage, Old Spice, Orange, Peppermint, Strawberry.

Directions to my Garden:

Find Montlake neighborhood, between the U.W. and Capitol Hill. Once there, go to 2216 E **Blaine** Street—two blocks in between St Demetrios Greek Church and Boyer Children's Clinic. My place is told by a **fire hydrant**, much **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 2nd edition (2008)

Trees of Seattle 2nd 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 but likely will not

Brockman Memorial UW Campus Tree Tour (1993)

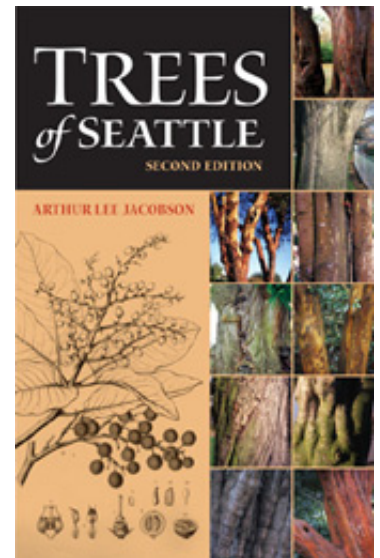
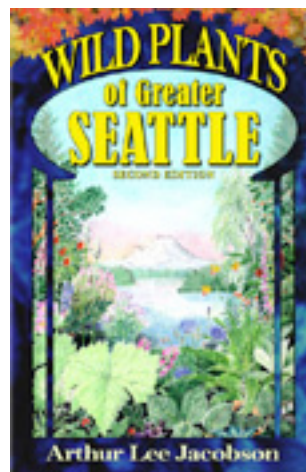
out of print; but is on-line

Trees of The Bloedel Reserve (1992)

Trees of Green Lake (1992)

Purpleleaf Plums (1992)

out of print



Miscellaneous News Bits:

In July I offer no **tours**, but will in August, so if you desire to go on one, please either check my August website calendar—or otherwise call or contact me to inquire. ☺

My **website** has over 330 articles. I dearly desire to improve its value by *indexing* by 1) subject, 2) vernacular, and 3) scientific names. But until winter I will not have time.

Also in winter I hope to continue making available as PDFs the health writings of **Gary Lockhart**. My website has details . . .

For those of you in the Seattle area, please **vote** in the August 18th primary election. Especially, we deserve a less bullying egotist mayor.

A north Seattle gardener (not me) hosts a free **beer tasting** 4 to 7 pm on Sunday August 23rd. For details please contact me.

Serious tree students should get a 2009 book: **New Trees** *Recent Introductions to Cultivation*.

Thank-you for reading this! May the beauty and calmness of nature help soothe any troubles you may be enduring in these scary times of major economic turmoil and climatic upheaval.

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):

The Garden as a Microcosm

October 1970

I. The garden as a place of peace.

When we are tense we go to the garden to see what's happening. A lot of things happen in the garden. New shoots sprout out of the ground or out of branches. New seedlings appear above the ground. Fruit grows and turns color; new flowers open. The unfolding is there in every growth bud and flower bud. Cells are growing, dividing, building (like bricks) and producing fascinating forms. Some large trees, like redwoods, begin life as seeds little bigger than a pinhead. Some large and beautiful flowers grow from tiny buds. The entire flower is already found in the bud, but is compressed to the size of a pinhead even though it may grow to 12 inches in diameter. The genes and chromosomes contain the blueprint for all these forms, and they unfold before our eyes. The womb of the seeds is the earth. They lie on top of it and send their roots down into it. Earth, water, sun, and air is their womb. Contemplating the garden brings peace because here life is at work quietly without pretending to be what it is not, doing what it can. Concentrating on the wonders of the garden we forget ourselves.

II. The garden as a place of beauty.

From spring to fall and even through winter, you will find color, texture, warmth, coolness, fragrance, sculpture, and endless variety of forms, all in the space of a small garden. It changes as the light changes, and as the seasons change. Like a symphony there are quiet moments and great crescendos of color in spring, summer, and fall. The fall of the year is like the evening of the day at sunset. Winter may add sculptural beauty with bare branches seen against the sky or covered with ice or snow. Become aware of beauty. Take time to look. Don't hurry; enjoy it as you would any other pleasure. The birds add their song to the symphony of color.

III. The garden as a place of healing.

Things get hurt in the garden. Insects, slugs, rodents, and birds eat leaves, stems, flowers, and seeds. But always the wounds heal. New growth replaces damaged wood and foliage and flower. In the chain of life one living thing lives by eating another. The bee takes the honey, the spider eats the bee, the wasp eats the spider, and some bird will eat the wasp. But even large wounds on trees heal. The bare earth is soon covered by weeds and grass, and the soil is held from being washed away to the sea. Even poisons placed on the earth by man are destroyed by soil bacteria and water bacteria, by the sun and by oxygen. One pest destroys another, and life goes on.

IV. The garden as a place of struggle.

Plants are not as passive as people think. As they grow, the strong ones kill the weaker ones. As all search for the light, some are shaded out by others and they die. Some small plants live under the shade and protection of large ones. Some plants produce toxic substances in their roots which kill other plants around them. Many can kill just by choking other plants out with their heavy root systems. Plants defend their living space like any other living thing. In the garden you become a referee, an arbitrator. You prune here and there to keep a large plant from killing a smaller one. You become a judge, often an executioner. You remove a shrub or tree that is too greedy to protect some other plants. You act like a ruler or a god.

V. The garden as a place of death.

Death comes in the garden every day and every year. Annual flowers die at the end of the season. Blooms fade each day as others open. The birds and squirrels eat seeds and buds and fruit. Many plants die for one reason or another. Vandals could come and destroy the garden. The leaves die and fall to the ground. All these dead things add to the humus of the soil. Their substance becomes food for new growth in the spring. There is constant recycling of all substances if you leave the remains of the plants where they fall or make them into compost and put them back. The soil is never exhausted this way. Only when the dead matter is taken away for the sake of neatness do we see the soil becoming poor. To have more life some must die. Every seedling that sprouts cannot live to maturity. Out of millions of seeds only a few survive.

In the garden you will see, on a small scale, all that happens in the larger world. There are many failures in the garden. Seeds fail, plants fail, flowers fail, the gardener fails. Success is only here and there.

The beautiful garden is a product of a combination of what nature has to offer and the gardener's imagination. The gardener dreams his garden, then finds plants, rocks, driftwood, and ideas that make the dream come true. In this sense the garden is like our lives. Our lives are a dream, and we set out to make some of that dream come true. As we dream, so we are, and as we dream our gardens so they become. To change the garden we must change our dream.

Give me your heart

February 20, 1972

Give me your heart, and I will treat it gently,
Like a bird that just flew in from the cold.
Come warm yourself by the flame of my love,
Little bird, and you'll be
Cold no more.

Give me your heart, and I will love it gently,
Like a bird that lost its song because
It was all alone.
Come close to me and the warmth of
My love will get you singing again.

Beat, beat, O heart of mine,
Sing a song of love and life.
Of life and love sing again,
As you did when you were young
And in love with every living thing.

Sing, sing, O heart of mine.
Sing a song of love and life,
Of life and love sing again
As you did when you were a child,
And you will never, never die.



—order blank—

Please mail to:

Arthur Lee Jacobson
2215 E. Howe St
Seattle, WA 98112



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. Over 550 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.
- 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.



Emenke photograph; April 2009

Wild Plants of Greater Seattle 2nd ed.

Special price includes postage, \$20.00 _____ copies
(9.5% sales tax: 18.27 + 1.73 = \$20.00)

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

Special price includes postage, \$25.00 _____ copies
(9.5% sales tax: 22.83 + 2.17 = \$25.00)

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

Price includes postage, \$10.00 _____ copies
(9.5% sales tax: 9.13 + .87 = \$10.00)

Selected Writings of Esiquio Narro

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

Price includes postage, \$20.00 _____ copies
(9.5% sales tax: 18.27 + 1.73 = \$20.00)

The Herbal Center of Healing

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

by Gary J. Lockhart

Price includes postage, \$20.00 _____ copies
(9.5% sales tax: 18.27 + 1.73 = \$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
(9.5% sales tax: 7.31 + .69 = \$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:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____