



RENAISSANCE GARDENING LTD.
PO Box 131, 495 MAIN STREET
HOPKINTON, RI 02833

RENAISSANCE NEW YORK
341 LAFAYETTE, SUITE 579
NEW YORK, NY 10012

Sows' Ears to Silk Purses: Gardens Before & After The McKee Garden Symposium, January 2006

Several of the gardens in this lecture are among the fifteen featured on the website. I know you'll enjoy them all. As you can see, a landscape's overall layout —plus its "hardscape" of pathways and terracing, pool and tennis court— provides its structure. Distinctive horticulture provides its beauty, transforming a functional outdoor space into an inviting garden.

These are the plants that were highlighted in the lecture. Eighteen exceptional vendors are listed so that you can purchase the plants for your own garden. All the sources but Monrovia and Bluemel are retail; contact either for a retailer near you.

Sometimes the most desirable plants are also the least available. Indeed, I couldn't find a single current source in the US for the three plants marked "call me." Let me know if you discover a nursery for either linden standards or white-flowered Japanese bush clover. Yellow-leaved groundcover raspberry is such an enthusiastic colonizer that if you're ever passing through I'd be happy to dig some from my own patch in Rhode Island.

Don't hesitate to be in touch about any facet of the lecture, or about horticulture and design in general.

Kind regards,


Louis Raymond

**The McKee Garden Symposium
January 2006**

**The plants that helped transform
some sows' ears to silk purses**

Latin Name	Common Name	Garden	Source
<i>Aconitum henryi</i> 'Sparks'	Sparks' monkshood	Cape Cod border	13
<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> 'Aurea'	Golden-leaved catalpa	Cape Cod border	13
<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i> 'Chocolate'	Chocolate Joe Pye Weed	Cape Cod border	5
<i>Hydrangea p. g.</i> 'The Swan'	The Swan PG hydrangea	Cape Cod border	11
<i>Iris ensata</i> 'Royal Robes'	Royal Robes japanese iris	Cape Cod border	18
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 'Frisia'	Yellow-leaved honeylocust	Cape Cod border	13
<i>Aralia elata</i> 'Variegata'	Variegated tree angelica	Walled garden	6
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Tasmanian tree fern	Walled garden	13
<i>Hedera colchica</i> 'Sulphur Heart'	Sulphur Heart persian ivy	Walled garden	13, 14
<i>Solenostemon</i> 'Trailing Red Queen'	Purple-leaved cascading coleus	Walled garden	4
<i>Canna</i> 'Bengal Tiger'	Bengal Tiger canna	Waterfront	12
<i>Hydrangea</i> 'Lemon Wave'	Lemon Wave hydrangea	Waterfront	13
<i>Ligustrum vicaryi</i>	Yellow-leaved privet	Waterfront	13
<i>Miscanthus floridulus</i>	Giant miscanthus	Waterfront	10
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	Parking Court	19
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Heavy Metal'	Heavy Metal switch grass	Parking Court	10
<i>Acer japonicum</i> 'Green Cascade'	Weeping cut-leaf japanese maple	Bee Free	13
<i>Cornus alba</i> 'Ivory Halo'	Ivory Halo siberian dogwood	Bee Free	13
<i>Hakonechloa macro</i> 'Aureola'	Variegated Hakone grass	Bee Free	10
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> 'Alice'	Alice oak-leaved hydrangea	Bee Free	13
<i>Canna</i> 'Australia'	Australia canna	Streetside	12
<i>Daphne</i> 'Carol Mackie'	Variegated daphne	Streetside	13
<i>Datura metel</i>	Angel's trumpet	Streetside	16
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Pineapple-leaved sea holly	Streetside	15
<i>Hydrangea</i> 'Mariesii Variegata'	Variegated hydrangea	Streetside	5
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Torulosa'	Hollywood juniper	Streetside	7
<i>Lespedeza japonica</i>	White bush clover	Streetside	Call me
<i>Lespedeza thunbergii</i> 'Gibraltar'	Pink bush clover	Streetside	13
<i>Salix alba</i> 'Sericea'	White-leaved willow	Streetside	6
<i>Salix eleagnos</i>	Rosemary-leaved willow	Streetside	13
<i>Salvia vanhoutii</i>	Van Houtii salvia	Streetside	4
<i>Sedum spectabilis</i> 'Frosty Morn'	Variegated autumn sedum	Streetside	10

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Latin Name	Common Name	Garden	Source
<i>Anemone japonica</i> 'Honorine Jobert'	White fall anemone	Weekend Terrace	10
<i>Clerodendron trichotomum</i> var. <i>fargesii</i>	Hardy clerodendron	Weekend Terrace	9
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	Pink-flowered big-root geranium	Weekend Terrace	10
<i>Magnolia</i> 'Bracken's Brown Beauty'	Hardy southern magnolia	Weekend Terrace	13
<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Nana'	Standard of dwarf linden	Weekend Terrace	Call me
<i>Canna</i> 'Russian Red'	Russian Giant canna	September Parterre	12
<i>Coleus</i> by the score!		September Parterre	4
<i>Nicotiana sylvestris</i>	Woodland tobacco	September Parterre	16
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	Columnar hornbeam	Compact sanctuary	13
<i>Cornus kousa</i> 'Lustgarten Weeping'	Weeping dogwood	Compact sanctuary	9
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i> 'Velvet Cloak'	Purple-leaved smoke bush	Compact sanctuary	13
<i>Hamamelis</i> 'Arnold Promise'	Arnold Promise witch hazel	Compact sanctuary	9
<i>Ilex</i> 'Nellie Stevens'	Nellie Stevens holly	Compact sanctuary	7
<i>Indocalamus tessallatus</i>	Big-leaf bamboo	Compact sanctuary	17
<i>Pinus densiflora</i> 'Umbraculifera'	Tanyosho pine	Compact sanctuary	7
<i>Pleioblastus viridistriatus</i>	Chartreuse-leaved dwarf bamboo	Compact sanctuary	17
<i>Agapanthus</i> 'Tinker Bell'	Variegated dwarf agapanthus	Louis's own	2
<i>Dianthus barbatus</i> 'Nigracans'	Black-flowered dianthus	Louis's own	16
<i>Digitalis ferruginea</i> 'Yellow Herald'	Yellow "rusty" foxglove	Louis's own	16
<i>Doronicum pardalianches</i>	Giant leopard bane	Louis's own	16
<i>Erythrina</i> X <i>bidwillii</i>	Coral bean tree	Louis's own	3
<i>Jasminum officinale</i> 'Fiona Sunrise'	Yellow-leaved jasmine	Louis's own	4
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle	Louis's own	16
<i>Poncirus trifoliata</i>	Hardy orange	Louis's own	19
<i>Rosa</i> 'Altissimo'	Altissimo rose	Louis's own	1
<i>Rubus idaeus</i> 'Aureus'	Yellow-leaved raspberry	Louis's own	Call me
<i>Spiraea</i> 'White Gold'	White Gold spirea	Louis's own	13
<i>Verbascum epixanthinum</i>	Greek mullein	Louis's own	16
<i>Verbascum thapsiforme</i>	Moth mullein	Louis's own	16
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i> 'Amethyst Falls'	Amethyst Falls American wisteria	Louis's own	9

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Exceptional vendors for these terrific plants

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| <p>1 Rogue Valley Roses
Medford, OR
Tel: 541-535-1307
Fax: 541-535-1307
Web: www.roguevalleyroses.com</p> | <p>6 Broken Arrow Nursery
13 Broken Arrow Rd.
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: 203-288-1026
Fax: 203-287-1035
Web:
www.brokenarrownursery.com</p> |
| <p>2 Collector's Nursery
16804 NE 102nd Avenue
Battle Ground, WA 98604
Tel: 360-574-3832
Fax: 360-574-3596
Web: www.collectorsnursery.com</p> | <p>7 Monrovia Nursery
Azusa, CA
Web: www.monrovia.com</p> |
| <p>3 Plant Delights
9241 Sauls Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
Tel: 919-772-4794
Fax: 919-662-0370
Web: www.plantdelights.com</p> | <p>8 Fairweather Gardens
POB 330
Greenwich, NJ 08323
Tel: 856-451-6261
Fax: 856-451-0303
Web: www.fairweathergardens.com</p> |
| <p>4 Avant Gardens
710 High Hill Road
North Dartmouth, MA 02747-1363
Tel: 508-998-8819
Fax: 508-998-8819 * 51
Web: www.avantgardensne.com</p> | <p>9 Kurt Bluemel, Inc.
2740 Greene Lane
Baldwin, MD 21013-9523
Tel: 800-498-1560
Fax: 410-557-9785
Web: www.kurtbluemel.com</p> |
| <p>5 Joy Creek Nursery
20300 NW Watson Road
Scappoose, OR 97056
Tel: 503-543-7474
Fax: 503-543-6933
Web: www.joycreek.com</p> | <p>10 Song Sparrow
13101 East Rye Road
Avalon, WI 53505
Tel: 800-553-3715
Fax: 608-883-2257
Web: www.songsparrow.com</p> |
| | <p>11 Karchesky Cannas
Web: www.karcheskycanna.com</p> |

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- 12 ForestFarm Nursery**
990 Tetherow Road
Williams, OR 97544-9599
Tel: 541-846-7269
Fax: 541-846-6963
Web: www.forestfarm.com
- 13 Hedera Etcetera**
POB 461
Lionville, PA 19353-0461
Tel: 610-970-9175
- 14 Prairie Nursery**
POB 306
Westfield, WI 53964
Tel: 800-476-9453
Fax: 608-296-2741
Web: www.prairienursery.com
- 15 Chiltern Seeds**
Cumbria, England
Tel: 44 (0) 1229 581137
Fax: 44 (0) 1229 584549
Web: www.chilternseeds.co.uk
- 16 New England Bamboo**
5 Granite Street
Rockport, MA 01966
Tel: 978-546-3581
Fax: 978-546-1075
Web: www.newengbamboo.com
- 17 Tranquil Lake**
45 River Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769-1395
Tel: 508-252-4002
Fax: 508-252-4740
Web: www.tranquil-lake.com
- 18 Rare Find Nursery**
957 Patterson Road
Jackson, NJ 08527
Tel: 732-833-0613
Fax: 732-833-1965
Web: www.rarefindnursery.com