



GPIS Newsletter April 2026

Presidents Message

Chad Harris

This has to be one of the mildest winters that I have experienced in the Columbia River Gorge. For the second time in 35 years, the Maso basjoo (hardy banana) without winter's protection did not freeze to the ground to start over from the crown. The plants are starting to grow where they left off last fall, at about 12 feet tall. They are already leafing out this spring, and I am anticipating many blooms later this summer. Many fuchsias did not die back and are starting to bloom now, much to the hummingbirds' delight.

Attached to this newsletter are many files that you will wish to open and react to. The first one, the timeline, is already upon us.

Hortlandia Plant Sale April 3-4. I've attached the files we received regarding parking, our setup, and closing time, along with some rules to follow. If you are donating iris plants (must be true to name), your list must get to John Ludi this week, prior to the 30th. We will be setting up on Friday, April 3rd, at 1:00 pm. If you wish to volunteer at the sales bench, please contact John Ludi or Chad Harris.

Region 13 Spring Meeting and Garden Tour. The registration form with itinerary is included here and can also be found posted at

<http://greaterportlandirissociety.org/calendar-of-events>

This information will also be forthcoming soon with the Region 13 Bulletin. The home area will be at the Portland airport, close to I-205. Motorcoach transportation will be to the Schreiner's garden and Mid-America, with

lunch. The evening meeting and banquet will be at a new restaurant, Jawfish (previously Shilo Inn), after which we will have an open program for hybridizers and others with garden photos. ***Presidents of other clubs, please forward the registration file folder to your club members. Thank you.***

Early Show Sunday, May 3rd. Master Gardeners will once again be our host at the Spring Garden Fair in Canby, Oregon, <https://springgardenfair.org/>

If you wish to work the show as a judge or clerk, contact Chad Harris. More detailed information will be in the May newsletter.

April 7th General Meeting, 7 pm, Ainsworth House and Gardens. Our guest speaker, Sierra Bloomer, Works for Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. Her first experience in natural resource work was as a contractor, restoring habitats in wetlands, forests, and along rivers in Washington County. The job was both physically and mentally

challenging, but she found it incredibly rewarding.

She later worked as a Natural Resource Technician for Metro and as a Natural Resource Specialist for an engineering and forestry company, where she performed wetland studies and managed restoration sites.

Sierra joined Clackamas SWCD in early 2024 and now leads work in the Mt. Hood National Forest, focusing on controlling invasive species after wildfires. She loves spending long days in the forest and discovering new plant species.



Hospitality last names starting M-Z