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## **Heronwood® Garden Announces Patrick McMillan as New Garden Director**

*McMillan—a Clemson University professor and former PBS show host—takes over Garden management from founder and renowned plantsman Dan Hinkley*

Heronwood® Garden, the renowned botanical garden located in Kingston, Wash., has named Patrick McMillan as its new Garden Director. Heronswood is owned by the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe (PGST).

McMillan takes on his new role after two decades as a professor at Clemson University, ten years as the Director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden, the publication of several books on horticulture and biodiversity, and a successful PBS series, *Expeditions with Patrick McMillan*.

“The reputation of Heronswood immediately drew my interest. After visiting the garden, there was no question that this was the place and challenge that suited my next journey in life,” said McMillan on why he decided to pursue the Garden Director position at Heronswood.

He went on to add: “The S’Klallam world view and my philosophy are so well knit that there was no question—this was the place I wished to serve. I am incredibly excited about the expansion and growth that is occurring in the garden, and I am dedicated to continuing the legacy that Heronswood has established, as well as expanding the outreach of service and education to the community. Indeed, Heronswood is the place where my life’s philosophy of celebrating the intersections of life comes alive.”

PGST leadership is equally enthusiastic to have found a Garden Director whose personal philosophies align with the Tribe’s values and goals.

“Patrick shares our Tribe’s vision for Heronswood, including an emphasis on conservation, diversity, best practices, education, collaboration, and community. We are excited to welcome Patrick and his family to the Pacific Northwest, and are grateful for his energy, drive, and enthusiasm to help make the team at Heronswood even stronger,” said Jeromy Sullivan, PGST Chairman. Heronswood is one of only a handful of large-scale botanical gardens in the United States wholly owned by a Native American tribe.

McMillan's transition to Heronswood's Garden Director comes as Dan Hinkley—master plantsman and Heronswood's co-founder—steps down after seven years in the role.

After founding Heronswood with Robert Jones in 1987, Hinkley helped build it into a destination garden with a robust nursery sending plants to fans throughout the U.S. and internationally. The property was initially sold in 2000 with Hinkley and Jones moving on. Unfortunately, several controversial decisions made by the new owners caused the garden to fall into disrepair. Neglected and overgrown, Heronswood went up for auction in 2012 where PGST—with land holdings and their reservation adjacent to the property—made the winning bid. After the Tribe took ownership, Hinkley came back on board to help with restoration efforts, eventually being named Garden Director. With McMillan's appointment, Dan will continue in a consulting role as Director Emeritus.

"We are so grateful to Dan for his guidance, expertise, and patience in making Heronswood what it is today—a place visited and adored by people all over the world," said Sullivan. "Dan helped us see the potential of not only restoring, but also expanding the garden for everyone who wants to enjoy it. While Dan's contribution cannot be overstated, we're happy to have Patrick on board to help us with this next chapter, bringing Heronswood into an exciting future."

Hinkley is confident that McMillan is the right choice to lead Heronswood into its next chapter: "To have someone of Patrick McMillan's stature in American horticulture take over the reins of Heronswood speaks volumes of our garden's reputation on a national as well as international stage. He fully understands the importance of the plant collections that currently exist, while being fully primed with the expertise to continue the process of exploring regions of the world with similar climates to our own to responsibly add to our palette of plants for Pacific Northwest gardens, furthering the enticement of Heronswood to gardeners across the globe."

He went on to add: "Patrick's interests encompass the entire natural world—well beyond simple botany—to our local birds, amphibians, and reptiles to the geology and the customs of the tribes of the PNW. I look forward to years ahead of learning about my own backyard through his very knowledgeable and unique vision."

Since the Tribe purchased the property in 2012, Heronswood has been reopened to the public with seasonal Plant Sales, weekly garden opens, and a series of lectures and classes. In 2020, these programs had to be cancelled or scaled back due to COVID concerns. Garden staff is exploring ways to hold events and classes safely in-person or remotely in 2021.

Today, Heronswood is home to 9,000 plant species from six of the world's seven continents. In addition, three new gardens are currently under development, including a crevice garden prototype and the *xəwəs shəyí* ( meaning "new life spirit" in the S'Klallam language) Renaissance Garden, featuring several unique touches paying homage to Pacific Northwest and tribal culture

Heronswood is operated by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation and is overseen by the Heronswood Steering Committee, which is made up of Tribal leaders as well as experts in horticulture, fundraising, and marketing. The garden is located at 7530 NE 288<sup>th</sup> Street in Kingston, Wash.

More information about Heronswood can be found at [HeronswoodGarden.org](http://HeronswoodGarden.org).

**About THE PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE**

The Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, originally known as the Nux Sklai Yem or Strong People, are descendants of the Salish people who have been well-established in the Puget Sound basin and surrounding areas since 2400 B.C. In the late 1930s, the Port Gamble S’Klallam reservation, located on the northern tip of the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington State, was established. Many of the Tribe’s members, who total about twelve hundred, still live there today.

For more information about the S’Klallam Tribe, please visit [www.pgst.nsn.us](http://www.pgst.nsn.us).

**About the PORT GAMBLE S’KLALLAM FOUNDATION**

The Port Gamble S’Klallam Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Port Gamble S’Klallam members while increasing the understanding of the Tribe’s rich cultural heritage with people who reside in the Puget Sound area and visitors from far and wide. For more information about the Port Gamble S’Klallam Foundation, please visit <http://www.skallamfoundation.org>.

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