



The Common Sense Gardener

WSU Thurston County Master Gardener Newsletter

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June 2007

12th Annual Garden Rhapsodies Tour

by Jennifer Johnson

Mark your calendars for July 28th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. You don't want to miss this year's Garden Rhapsodies Tour. Eight gardens open their gates for one day only to invite the public inside these normally private sanctuaries. This unique garden tour features gardening styles for every taste from extremely low-maintenance privacy screens to waterfalls and Japanese-style ponds. Featured gardens utilize many Common Sense Gardening techniques such as composting to build healthy soil, water conservation, and avoiding the use of toxic pesticides.

Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB) will staff a demonstration garden on raised garden beds. Don't miss the GRuB garden if you are looking for ways to provide more of your own food or would like more information on this great local resource.



Tickets for the Garden Rhapsodies Tour are \$15 and include a free shuttle bus to all of the gardens. Tickets go on sale July 2nd at local nurseries, Olympia Federal Savings bank branches, and the Olympia Farmers Market. Monies raised benefit the supporting non-profits.

The shuttle site and community hub will feature compost bin sales and community groups with information and displays. Local groups support the tour by providing garden-related demonstrations in the gardens, while artists add to the ambience, capturing moments in the gardens. Local musicians serenade tour-goers, bringing out the Rhapsody at this fun event with something for everyone.

The Garden Rhapsodies Tour is a unique partnership between the Thurston County Health Department, Stream Team, City of Olympia, Washington State University Master Gardeners, Thurston County Master Gardener Foundation, Native Plant Salvage Project, and the Olympia Symphony Guild. If you need more information on Garden Rhapsodies, contact Jennifer Johnson at (360) 754-3355 ext 7631. See you there!

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Next Newsletter Feature:



Please address any comments to Paul Feenan, Program Manager

Plant Sale Results!

by Lynda Bauer

SPRING PLANT SALE 2007 -- GOALS ACHIEVED!

Master Gardeners and Master Composters raised over \$14,000 and we had fun doing it!



Whether it was due to the new banner downtown, the radio endorsements by Smilin' Jay on MIXX96 or the wonderful posters and bookmarks we displayed around Thurston County, we had 750 attendees – another increase over last year. Our Shuttle Van service was busy and appreciated all day long: the parking crew had more spaces for cars and fewer hassles directing traffic....except when four cars back out simultaneously!

The Composting Demonstrations drew people all day long, and most gratifying of all visitors took time to appreciate the marvelous changes to the DW Demonstration Gardens. They look so attractive and are a credit to the MG Program! Kudos to Karen Walters, Paula Nelson and crew!

Vendors Jackie Crossman (aka the Fuchsia Lady), LOJO Leaves and Connie Barclay with her beautiful pottery added a lot of interest and excitement. Unfortunately not many people were hungry enough to support Bagel Bros. but those who were really appreciated the wonderful food and hot coffee. Paul Feenan will have to continue to train our customers also to stop at the Educational Booth, but the process has begun! "They are trainable."

And for all the Master Gardeners who looked at our stock of tree peonies and wondered "What will we do with so many?" the answer appears to be "SELL THEM!" Customers were delighted and we sold more than 100 of them. Connie Roth's Shade Plants were in high demand clearing out the Hoop House almost completely by noon. Great Plant Picks and Natives draw their own consistent crowd, and Bev Hallet and Karla Broschinski knew their grasses and with artful displays sold many more than usual.



The Holding Crew was literally swamped starting at 9:05 a.m. and we will have to do some serious planning to alleviate that problem next time. The Transporters were overwhelmed with laden customers and that's a very nice problem to have, but, it's one we must eliminate in



2008. The tally crew and cashiers did their usual stellar job; sincere thanks to Christine Virgadamo and Sharon Brown as always.

Next year: MORE CARTS AND WAGONS! And a "Transport Line Starts Here" sign.

If you saw the Personal Shoppers at work you won't be surprised to learn we really cleaned out the ranks of Perennial plants, too. So you might wonder why we had a Half-Price Special, beginning at 2:30 pm? Combined with Bill Longnecker's efforts with the Compost Bin Sales, our Foundation has exceeded the

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financial goals for this budget year. Therefore, it was decided NOT to hold a Fall Plant in 2007, and we needed to move as many perennials as possible on to good homes. It was time and it was good to see all that bare ground at the end of the day.

We will have far less work over the summer months, and more volunteers will be able to participate in program activities as well Garden Rhapsodies and Compost Bin Sales!



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There will be a post Sale evaluation Meeting: Wednesday, June 6th at 9:30 a.m. in the Lacey Extension Office. Everyone is invited to attend and bring your ideas. If you have comments or suggestions and are unable to attend, please email Lynda Bauer, Evelyn Stewart, or Marion McIntosh.

A FALL POTTING SESSION will be held just when you are dividing your perennials at home to help restock for 2008. Evelyn Stewart and Bob Findlay have made purchases from Lawyer's as well. To quote Cliff Moore "The Beat Goes On", but a subdued summer melody for awhile.

The Foundation is recruiting a **new leader for Plant Sale 2008** – Time to bring new ideas, enthusiasm and energy to this FUN, REWARDING, AND EXHILERATING JOB. Won't you consider it? A manual of resources and a timeline guide awaits the taker.

It has been a joy and privilege to work with so many dedicated, talented and energetic volunteers. Thanks for all your support and good luck for the future!

Sincerely, *Lynda Bauer*

Black Gold Rush at Closed Loop Garden Park by Diane Stanger

There's more to Closed Loop Park than the eye pleasing blossoms, colorful trees, shrubs and perennials in the beautifully displayed garden beds.



As you stroll through the Entrance Garden, and weave your way around the Smoke Tree Garden, the StyraX Garden and perhaps the Dedication Garden, be sure to take in the expanded composting area in the upper area of the park. This is where that rich black gold is produced.

At present there are no less than 8 or 9 different kinds of compost bins at work; from the rudimentary wire mesh type, to the attractive double cedar bins worthy of a special place in any landscaped yard, to the extra large cinder block enclosure, which can hold and process larger volumes of yard waste. And let's not forget our very lively worm bin. We show case something for everyone's taste, composting skill level, available time and desire to reduce landfill waste.

On any given Saturday morning, there are Master Composters on hand to turn compost, build new piles from CLP yard waste and used coffee grounds, and reap the finished earthy smelling product. Dedi-

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cated CLP volunteers do weekly rotations to pick up bags of used coffee grounds.

Additionally, there's always someone available to answer questions from visitors who are curious about Closed Loop in general, and composting in particular. It doesn't take much for a Master Composter to extol the virtues and satisfaction of producing one's own compost. We are always eager to open a bin so visitors can see and touch the "work in progress", or better yet, the wonderful end product; nature's own **black gold**.



Dirt Works Garden News by Karen Walters

We have had a busy time getting the garden ready for plant sale in May and with 700+ people through the garden that day we had great exposure for a "hidden" garden! All the hard work paid off – the garden looked beautiful, the plants for sale were beautiful and went flying out the gates. It was such a wonderful day at Dirt Works. Thank you to all the Master Gardeners who work so hard.



June brings the beginning of our workshops to Dirt Works. These workshops are for the Public and Master Gardeners. Please come and support your fellow Master Gardeners. The classes are free and the time is 10:00 a.m. – 12:00

p.m. On June 2nd, Bob Findlay and Linda Bennett will be giving a class on *Creating a Mixed Border*. You will learn tips for designing a site, choosing the right plants for the right place, saving water and the latest information on mulches. Then on June 9 Shanna Winters teaches *Low Pollen Gardening for Asthma/Allergy Sufferers*. She has first hand experience with this subject. Our new rose garden is the subject for the last June workshop. It will be held on June 16th and taught by Mary Moore, Pauline Feuling, and Paula Nelson. The class is entitled *Growing Roses in the Pacific NW*. You will certainly get good information here as these three Master Gardeners are members of the Rose Society.



In July we will have two Saturday happenings. The first, on July 14th, is a family event; *Hands on Worm Composting*. On July 21st, Shanna Winters will teach a workshop on *Growing and Containing Bamboo*. She has done her homework on this one and has information to share from a study that she knows about.

The grant we are applying for to finish the adaptive garden, has been turned in. We will know within this month if we have been chosen. If we do not get the grant, the adaptive area will still be built, just at a slower pace. This summer is when the raised beds will be built, and we hope to finish it up this fall.

During the summer months our plan for the garden is to focus on maintenance. We expect to have people through the garden during our Tuesday hours as they bring children for our children's program. Our workshops will bring people in as well. So we still need your help and support for upkeep and to be there to talk to our visitors.

Children's Garden News by Karen Walters



The Children's Garden is ready for kids! Our first day will be Tuesday June 26th, and we begin with *What's in that compost?* We did hold a Saturday session where kids could come and help plant the vegetable beds. There were several Master Gardener Interns who came to help and they also brought kids along.

Several interns have also planned lessons for the summer which was very helpful and it is always nice to have new ideas.

Master Gardeners at the Olympia Farmers Market by Bob Findlay

Now that we are in full bloom at the market demonstration garden, it has been a pleasure for the mentors to introduce the garden to the interns. Actually a number of folks from the class of 2007 have been actively working in the garden and clinic since February. Their enthusiasm and expertise has already been felt in our operation. We commend the mentorship program for easing the transition from interns to effective players in the gardens and clinics.

The newly rehabilitated Gallacci corner bed is thriving with many plants that had been languishing elsewhere in the garden now that they have better cultural conditions. Their success is a warning to us that growing conditions are not good in selected areas of our garden - so there is an opportunity for some soil testing. It is an extension of the water-wise bed that is being nurtured with old fashioned hose watering as individual plants need to get them estab-



lished.



There has been renewed activity in the compost area. Once the iris are done blooming, we will clear an area for the worm box on that side of the path, construct a shade trellis overhead, and add an earth machine and green cone to our pair of bio-stacks. Ideally the compost area will be a place for ongoing public education as it straddles a main path through the garden.

And did I mention Iris? The three-year old planting of highly hybridized Iris, NW natives, Siberians, Dutch, and what may be termed farm-yard survivors is at peak bloom so join the many market/garden visitors who have been enjoying the Iris walk. A number of repeat blooming Iris have been planted in the water wise beds for an even longer bloom season. Enjoy the rewards of your efforts in the garden.

Master Gardener Mentor Program by Lois Willman

The Master Gardener Class of 2007 is experiencing two significant changes that have been made to the program this year – a restructuring of the course schedule where classes are held once every three weeks, and the establishment of a Master Gardener Mentor Program.

Twelve veteran Master Gardeners are responsible for mentoring four to five interns over the course of the year. The feedback from both the interns and the mentors has been overwhelmingly positive.

In early January, the mentors met at the Lacey Extension Office and went through a four-hour team-building training session. Prior to the first class a week later, mentors contacted the interns to welcome them to the Master Gardener Program, confirm their attendance at the class, offer insights into the MG program and class schedule, and discuss expectations of the interns during and after completion of the training course.

Several mentors attend each class session to help facilitate the class presentation, answer questions interns may have, make announcements and post an activity board of upcoming events and items of interest, and personally interact with the interns. Mentors are continually discussing volunteer opportunities and scheduling clinic training at the Lacey Extension Office and the Olympia Farmers Market for each intern.

Through this interaction, coupled with the opportunity to work numerous hours in the gardens prior to completion of their course training, the 2007 interns have had the opportunity to interact with many veteran Master Gardeners and make a smooth transition from classroom to practical experience.

Once the interns complete their classroom training, the mentors will continue to work with them through the end of the year.

An extensive evaluation of the Mentor Program will be conducted prior to the start of the 2008 class in order to improve and expand this valuable program. If you are a veteran Master Gardener, you may want to consider volunteering to be part of this rewarding program.

Let's Travel and Learn Program Reviews by Judy Wagner and Margo Mansfield

As you probably already have heard, the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County (MGFTC) is sponsoring trips, tours and classes that are aimed at providing educational opportunities for our Master Gardeners/Composters and the community as well as being fundraisers under the program title of "Let's Travel and Learn!". Lois Willman and Linda Lee Treece are spearheading the efforts, and we are so lucky to have them putting their heads together and coming up with such wonderful events! Several have been held and we have reviews written by participants! The first excursion was to several places including Bastian's Bamboo Nursery, DeGoede Bulb and Plant Farm, and Raintree Nursery. The review by Judy Wagner follows:

What a wonderful day! We left our meeting place around 9am and headed south on I-5 to visit Bastian's Bamboo Nursery in Maytown/Tenino. We were greeted by the owner, Sandra Bastian, who gave us an 8 page sheet listing information for 38 species of bamboo. She gave us a walking tour of her bamboo groves which were planted in late spring and summer of 2003 and a few beds in 2004. What an education we had. She was most gracious in showing us the different characteristics of each species and answering our many questions. After the walking tour, we were invited into the greenhouse where she served refreshments of coffee and cookies. Sandra had a drawing for us and the prize was a non-running

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bamboo, *Chusquea Culeou*, won by Cherry Pedrick. We were all excited for Cherry. After viewing all the species, this was her favorite and she won it! Bastian's Bamboo is open Spring – Fall on Saturday and by appointment during the week. We left with new knowledge and appreciation of Bamboo and mentally scanning our gardens as to where we could add this beautiful plant. A visit to Bastian's is a must for those who are interested in Bamboo and for those, like me, who had very limited bamboo knowledge.

 Our next stop was DeGoede Bulb and Plant Farm in Mossyrock, WA. The DeGoede family is the 4th generation growing flowers, two generations in Holland and two in WA. They grow bulbs and perennials on approximately 300 acres, supplying plants to several chains including Fred Meyer and Safeway. The Show Garden is a gardener's delight. Beautifully landscaped with labels on each plant. We all drooled at the sight of tulips in gorgeous colors and rhododendron in bloom and retail greenhouses filled with beautiful hanging baskets. We had our lunch in the garden next to a water feature. After lunch it was off to their retail shop where we found great plants at great prices. We met our tour hostess and had a brief history of the farm. Due to insurance regulations, visitors cannot go into the working greenhouses, but we were awed by the spectacular view of the surrounding fields of raspberries, blueberries, and an artist palette of colored tulips. Reluctantly we left this beautiful setting noticing that the van we were traveling in was getting a little crowded. Did we really buy all those plants?

 Our next stop was further East on Hwy 12 to Morton, then back West on Hwy 508 to The Raintree Nursery. What a beautiful view as we turned into Raintree, looking from the mountainside to the valley. We again had a most gracious hostess, Horticulturist Theresa Knutsen. She took us to see "her babies" in the greenhouse and gave us a mini lesson in plant propagation, the technique, soils, etc. that she uses. We then followed the growth of the plant through the greenhouses until they were ready for sale. It was most interesting to hear the stories of how Raintree travels the world finding the finest disease resistant and flavorful plants and adapting them for American gardeners. They offer over 600 varieties of fruit trees, berries, unusual edibles, ornamentals, and supplies. Theresa took us to view the fruit tree "Mothers" and explained the scion grafting technique used.

 We left Raintree wondering how all those plants were able to fit into the van, but being creative gardeners, there is always room for one more! The day wasn't over. We had a raffle for a garden ornament as we drove home in the van. Jim Pedrick was the winner. It was a win-win day for the Pedrick's

 Our minds were reeling with new ideas and new knowledge to incorporate in our own gardens. Special thanks to Linda Lee Treece and Lois Willman for organizing the trip and Paul Freenan for coming with us and being our driver.

 The next review we have is by Margo Mansfield, and covers the drip irrigation class; *The Practical Gardeners Guide to Drip Irrigation* follows:

 Spending the last few weeks reshaping, replanting, and beautifying my lawn and gardens, I kept thinking about how much I wanted a watering system but didn't have a clue on how to create one. Every time I thought about it, my mind would shut down as thoughts of how I might do it became more complicated and confusing.

 When I got an email from the MGFTC inviting me to a Drip Irrigation class, I signed up right away. As I drove into Lois's driveway for the class, I was immediately impressed by her beautiful and creative gardens. There was little question in my mind that a drip irrigation system would be a necessity for such an exquisite garden.

 From the first tour of gardens to the very end of the class with Lois and her husband, David, I found myself letting go of my confusion and, instead, was inspired to get home and start working on a drip irrigation system for my own gardens.

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Lois and David provided so many practical and cost-saving tips on how to get started and even expand your drip irrigation system. They had booklets of various suppliers for all the necessary parts for a system. The stories they shared about creating their own system were filled with the knowledge gained from their experiences. From all that they had learned, they had numerous alternatives to offer the class. Their “how-to” demonstrations took the class from the selection of the parts that would be appropriate for different types of watering needs to the actual assembly of a simple system. The tours explained how various types of systems could be used for assorted plants that had diverse watering needs. They made it very simple to see how one drip irrigation system could be organized to water various sections of plants needing differing amounts of water at the same time. It was truly fascinating and amazingly helpful.

Although the class was only 2 hours, I felt that I had learned enough of the basics to start my drip irrigation system immediately. Thank you so much, Lois and David.

Clinically Speaking by Mary Moore

April and May in the Lacey Clinic were business as usual. Many of our new interns joined us and, by all accounts, have done extremely well! They must be extra smart people and, of course, we have Paul to thank for their awareness. I was really out of commission due to my mother’s illness and didn’t have a chance to work in the clinic at all for these past two months. However, thanks to all of our wonderful veterans such as Judy Wilson, Mary Boston, Mike McGee, Nancy Yarborough, and Karan Kinch, the clinic has been well-staffed with knowledgeable people. And there are others whom I probably have forgotten to mention, but it takes many of us to do the band-up job that we manage to do.

Of course, the Farmers Market opened in April and that means that the clinic down there opened as well. When open for business, the Farmers Market Clinic gets a great deal of business with lots of questions. The most popular question at this time of year is always “When can I plant my tomatoes out of doors?” That question is undoubtedly followed by “What is the best tomato to plant?” The wonderful thing about the Farmers Market Clinic is that they are not only a great representative of the Master Gardener program, but they are “in the face” of the public. If you have not had a chance to work in the Farmers Market Clinic, please sign up. It is a marvelous experience!

The season will undoubtedly “heat up”. There will be plants to identify, insects to look at, diseases to diagnose, questions about growth patterns of perennials, and other odd assorted queries. It is such fun to work in the clinics and learn new things every time. Try it and I guarantee that you will find it fascinating!!!!

The Gardener’s Bookshelf by Mary Moore

Everyone who deals with shade areas in their garden – and who among us doesn’t – must have this book. It is not new information, but has been published in a very useful paperback pocket guide format by Timber Press. Those of us who are dealing with shade are familiar with W. George Schmid’s award-winning *An Encyclopedia of Shade Perennials*, a wonderful but big and heavy tome. This book is entitled *Shade Perennials* and is available in most local bookstores as well as from Amazon.

It is very important not to skip over the Introduction, something that I am often tempted to do because I want to get into the “meat” of the book. However, the Introduction has a good deal of important information. Schmid discusses the types of shade which turns out to be very important when choosing the plants that will reside there. He also talks about the garden’s wild woodland floor and the need for irrigation.

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The first chapter lists shade perennials that are used for specific purposes and locations. These lists include: fast-growing plants, groundcovers, plants for wet soil, plants for dry shade, plants for winter interest, and plants that add architectural interest in the shade garden.

The rest of the book consists of a dictionary of shade perennials. Each listing includes the type of shade in which the plant will flourish as well as the various varieties that have proven to be particularly effective. I was surprised to see the many different grasses that can be grown in the shade and I was delighted to see the coverage of Arisaema – so many different varieties! I was also delighted to learn about the many varieties of Epimedium, one of my favorites. The varieties and cultivars of Heuchera are amazingly diverse as is Schmid's coverage of Hosta.

A small, but mighty book is this wonderful pocket guide. Add it to your collection and you will be using it often!

Ask the Expert by Don Tapio (Selected and edited for space - [for complete articles go to the Lacey Clinic](#))

Questions and answers are selected edited for space - [for complete information go to the Lacey Clinic](#) where a hard copy is kept!

Question: We can't believe it! Right after last weekend's warm temperatures we started seeing insects that looked like yellow jackets building a nest under the eaves of our house. Is there anything we can do to discourage them? (April 9)

Answer: Based on your description, and the time of year, more than likely the insects you described are European Paperwasps. This insect has markings similar to the typical yellowjacket and is often confused with it. Nests are frequently constructed beneath roof overhangs, decks, doorways, outdoor light fixtures, BBQ grills, birdhouses and mailboxes. **If possible, leave the nest alone!** You will benefit from having these voracious predators working for you in your garden and landscape. Generally, European paperwasps bring excellent early-season biological control of many pests.

Question: We have some vegetable and flower seed left over from last year. Should we use them or toss them? (April 9)

Answer: Two things influence the ability of old seeds to germinate---the way they were stored, and the kind of seed. Most common flower and vegetable seeds stay alive if they're stored in a cool dry place. Humidity should be less than 50 percent and the temperature between 40 and 50 degrees. One good place to store seeds is in tightly sealed jars in the back of your refrigerator. If humidity is a problem, put a soda cracker in the jar with the seeds.

Question: We have heard that bumble bees are important pollinators. Is there something we can do to attract them to our garden? (April 16)

Answer: Its relatively easy to make your garden attractive to bumble bees. You don't have to re-landscape your entire property; just tuck favorite bumble bee blooms in among your existing plants, or grow them in pots where you can observe the insects close up. In fact, most gardens here in our coastal area already have one of the bumble bee's favorite flowers--rhododendrons. Other woody ornamentals which will attract this pollinator include California lilac, dogwood, viburnums, elderberry and willows. Herbaceous ornamentals include hollyhocks, larkspurs, lavenders, snapdragons, catmints, columbines, asters, sunflowers, lupines and violets and borage.

Question: We purchased a climbing rose a year ago and are wondering how we should prune it? (April 16)

Answer: According to rosarians, climbing roses are the most misunderstood of the rose world. The secret for large flowered climbers is to prune, prune, prune. Unfortunately, most people are afraid to touch them after planting and the plants wind up growing into a tangled mess without many blooms.

Question: We are having a real problem with moles. Is there anything we can do to get rid of them? (April 23)

Answer: According to Dave Pehling, who is a mole specialist with WSU Extension in Snohomish County, there is no shortage of "home remedies" that have been passed down form one generation of gardeners to another on how to eliminate the pesky mole. Although some of these remedies may temporarily discourage mole activity, unfortunately none have proven to be as consistently effective as trapping (illegal in WA). While pouring those concoctions that include a mixture of egg whites and castor oil down molehills may result in a temporary exodus of moles, they

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will be back!

Q *uestion: We had moles in one area of the garden and then they seemed to abruptly move into a different area. Why? (April 23)*

A *nswer: It is not uncommon for moles to move from one part of the garden to another. This movement is affected by climate and ground moisture. Moles will respond to changes in food supply as different insects become available in different places and at different times throughout the year. If disturbed, moles may temporarily leave an area but will usually return when you least expect it. Even without disturbance, mole activity may last only a week or two in a particular area.*

Q *uestion: We planted an entire hedge of photinias last year primarily because we liked the striking red color of the new foliage. As the foliage matured last summer, it became covered with brown spots and eventually a lot of the leaves fell off. Is there something we can spray on the new foliage now to prevent the same thing from happening this year? (April 23)*

A *nswer: Although photinia foliage is beautiful this time of year, it comes at the price of usually having unattractive plant foliage during the rest of the growing season due. Photinia is susceptible to a fungus disease known as Entomosporium leaf spot. This fungus is characterized by circular dark red to dark brown or black spots. The small, black blister-like dots that develop in the center are the fruiting bodies or spore containing structures of the fungus. In addition to Entomosporim Leaf Spot, photinia foliage is also susceptible to a physiological leaf spot which produces round, reddish purple spots on the leaves---usually during the winter season.*

Q *uestion: If you could have your choice of a flowering tree to plant in your landscape, what would it be? (April 30)*

A *nswer: Taking all things into consideration, it would be hard to beat crabapples. They do very well in our coastal climate, are adaptable to various soils, and come in a wide range of sizes and shapes. Newer crabapple varieties with disease resistance are now available. WSU Extension has a wonderful publication with detailed descriptions of these recommended varieties including colored photos of trees in bloom. You may obtain a copy by calling WSU Publications at 1-800-723-1763 and asking for EB 1809 Crabapples for Western Washington Landscapes. Cost is \$6.00 plus tax and shipping. You can also download a free copy at: <http://pubs.wsu.edu/>*

Q *uestion: We always seem to have a problem with scab on our apples. Is there a spray we can use to prevent this fungus? When should we apply it? (April 30)*

A *nswer: The key to successfully controlling scab is to apply fungicides early and thoroughly to protect new growth. The most critical period for scab development is now when leaf buds are just beginning to open until they are fully expanded. WSU plant pathologists recommend using the fungicide Captan according to labeled directions. Applications should be made now, and again in two weeks. A third application, when apples are about one-half inch in diameter, is also recommended.*

Q *uestion: Some of our early vegetables look chlorotic. We think we should fertilize them. What should we use and how much? (April 30)*

A *nswer: A good rule of thumb for fertilizing vegetables is to apply three to four pints of a 5-10-10 fertilizer per 100 feet of row. The fertilizer should be placed two to three inches out from the plant.*

Q *uestion: The other morning when it was so frosty, our neighbor was out sprinkling his garden. When we asked why he was doing this he replied that sprinkling plants would prevent them from being damaged by freezing temperatures. Is this true? (May 7)*

A *nswer: This is one of those things that might well be labeled strange but true. In addition to covering tender plants with either sheets of plastic, newspaper or some other protective covering, turning on the sprinklers will also prevent cold injury.*

Q *uestion: We have a number of landscape plants that seem to be in a stage of decline. Even though we have applied fertilizer, the leaves do not grow to a full size and tend to have a yellow color. What could be causing this? (May 7)*

A *nswer: Assuming there are no highly visible signs of insect or disease damage the problem may be caused by over-mulching. Heavy and repeated applications of mulch around shallow rooted established ornamentals such as azaleas, rhododendrons, mountain laurel, leucothoe, andromeda, boxwood, hollies yews and camellias can suffocate their roots. If the plant has the ability to root readily, the plants will often initiate new roots from the stems into the mulch layer, but produce little top growth. Shallow rooted plants growing on sandy well aerated soils can tolerate more mulching than plants growing on heavy clay or silt loam soils.*

Q *uestion: We are suddenly seeing so many flies. What are they? Where did they come from? (May 7)*

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Answer: More than likely what you are seeing are March flies. They are commonly seen flying in large numbers when the weather becomes warmer in late winter or early spring. March flies are about 3/8 of an inch in length, appear somewhat fuzzy and are generally dark in color. They are feeble fliers and likely to land anywhere. March fly larvae are often misidentified as European crane fly larvae, because they inhabit lawns or grassy areas bearing a rich accumulation of organic debris.

Question: *Is it true that you can actually fertilize your lawn just by leaving the clippings on rather than putting them in the compost pile? (May 14)*

Answer: Grass clippings contain valuable nutrients that can generate up to 25 percent of your lawn's total fertilizer needs. Grass clippings can generate nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium back to the lawn, which are needed for turfgrass growth. Despite popular belief, grass clippings do not contribute to thatch, because they are made of water and decompose quickly.

Question: *We are confused as to just how often we should fertilize our lawn and what kind of fertilizer to use. Should we always use a "Weed and Feed" product? (May 21)*

Answer: WSU turfgrass specialists have made recommended lawn fertilizer application dates easy to remember simply by using the following holidays as a reminder. The first application of the growing season should be made around Easter, the second, around Memorial Day, the third around Labor Day and the fourth and final application of the year around Halloween. To keep turfgrass green and vigorous, apply 5 pounds of Ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) per 1000 square feet of lawn area on each of the above dates. It is not necessary to use a "Weed and Feed" product unless your lawn is infested with broadleaf weeds. Maintaining a vigorous and dense turfgrass through good cultural practices is the best defense against new weed invasions.

Question: *We would like to have a garden but have very little space. We have a large deck and have thought about doing some container gardening. Is it possible to grow vegetable crops like carrots and beets in containers? (May 21)*

Answer: In addition to carrots and beets you can successfully grow cucumbers, bush beans, leaf lettuce, summer squash, green onions, cabbage, peppers, turnips, tomatoes and many other garden vegetables in containers. Smaller spaces result in smaller costs. Initial set-up costs may be a little more, but once the containers and soil are purchased, costs are minimal.

Question: *Our entire garden appears to be infested on aphids. They are on everything from the peas to the petunias! What is the best way to get rid of them? We heard that using aluminum foil mulches will repel aphids. Does that really work? (May 28)*

Answer: Aluminum foil mulches have been successfully used to reduce transmission of aphid borne viruses in summer squashes, melons, and other susceptible vegetables. However, as plants grow, aluminum foil mulches give mixed results for aphid control; they seem to repel natural enemies of aphids as well as aphids. Another way to reduce aphid populations on sturdy plants is to knock them off with a strong spray of water.

Question: *What is the best way to get rid of Scotch Broom? Can someone from the County make our neighbor spray his so it does not seed into our property? We get "hayfever" every year when it comes into bloom. (June 4)*

Answer: Plants can be controlled by grubbing out the crowns. After removing existing large plants, repeated cultivation will destroy seedlings of this weed. Cutting or mowing the plant down to ground level immediately after flowering has proven to be a fairly effective means of control on mature plants with a stem diameter greater than 2 inches. Mowing young, green plants is not effective however, and will result in a dense carpet of short broom plants. Selected herbicides currently recommended by WSU weed scientists for the control of Scotch Broom include triclopyr and glyphosate. Both of these materials can be found in most retail garden stores and provide effective control when used according to labeled directions. Basal or cut stump treatment methods are also effective.

Although many people complain about "hay fever" when Scotch Broom is flowering, more than likely, the broom is not to blame. Scotch Broom is insect pollinated. Being heavy and sticky, the pollen does not become airborne; thus the potential for an allergenic reaction is minimal except perhaps when an individual actually handles a plant in bloom.

Question: *The leaves on our raspberries are covered with a yellowish-orange spotting that resembles rust! What's causing this? How do we control it? (June 4)*

Answer: Based on the symptoms you described, your raspberry leaves are most likely infected with a fungus disease commonly known as Yellow Rust. This disease is widespread in red raspberries throughout Western Washington, particularly in years when Spring rains continue into May. The most practical control is to destroy fallen leaves and other refuse around plants as they are a source of inoculum for the next growing season. Applying a delayed dormant spray of lime sulfur when the first leaves are out about three quarters of an inch will also help to prevent infection.

Dates to Keep In Mind

Meetings & Lectures/Classes

Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County:

Membership Meeting and Lecture/Sale

THURSDAY, June 14, 6pm

St. Benedict's Church, 910 Bowker Street SE, Lacey
Hardy Fuchsia's with Jackie Crossman

WSU Thurston County Extension Food Preservation Classes, Held at the office from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

\$30 per class or \$25 each for 2 or more.

Call 360-786-5445 to register

June 21 - Jams and Jellies

June 28 - Canning Fruits

July 12 - Pickling

July 19 Canning Vegetables

July 26 - Tomatoes and Salsa

Northwest Horticultural Society (NHS):

Wednesday Evening Lecture Series

Held at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH), located at 3501 NE 41st in Seattle. Reception 6:45pm, Lecture at 7:15pm Price: \$5 for NHS members; \$10 for non-members. **Three FREE lectures to all members** Go to www.northwesthort.org for more information

June 13, 2007 ~ "Making the Modern Garden" by Christopher Bradley-Holt

Christopher Bradley-Holt, author, architect, and plantsman, works at the cutting edge of modern design. He will provide an overview of the best modern and minimalist gardens, giving the inspiration behind the gardens and explaining how space and proportion combine with clever planting.

NOTE: July, August, September ~ Summer schedule (no lectures)

Upcoming Classes

June 7, 2007 ~ 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"Build Your Own Fern Table" with Richie Steffen

Members: \$55 Non-Members: \$75

June 20, 2007 ~ 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

"Revive, Replace, Invigorate Garden" with Richie Steffen

Members: \$25 Non-Members: \$35

July 12, 2007 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"Snohomish County Nursery Tour" with Mark Henry

Members: \$35 Non-Members: \$45

July 19, 2007 ~ 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

"Sustainable Gardening Practices" with Greg Graves

Members: \$25 Non-Members: \$35

Northwest Perennial Alliance (NPA) - Capital Group

The NPA Capital Group, which includes several nursery owners and gardeners ranging from very experienced to novice, meets the last Sunday of each month. For more

information, contact Lois Willman at merriam@scattercreek.com.

Tours & Sales

Point Defiance Flower & Garden Show – Friday June 1, Saturday June 2 10 – 6, Sunday June 3, 10 – 5. Point Defiance Park, Tacoma. For information www.ptdefianceflowershow.com. **Note:** June 2, Saturday Travel by van and carpool. Sponsored by MGFTC Limited to 20 people. **Fee:** \$20, which includes entry fee and travel. **Contact Linda Lee Treece at 491-3864 for reservations.**

JUNE 16, Saturday, Paul Feenan's Barnyard Gardens and More!

Join fellow MG's for a trip to the north Shelton area and Steamboat Island. We will depart at 9 a.m. for Heaths and Heathers Nursery which specializes in the new, the rare, and the unusual in heaths and heathers. Next we will travel to Paul Feenan's Barnyard Gardens for a tour of his and Kirsten's nursery of hanging baskets, veggie starts, herbs, annual bedding plants, trees/shrubs, chickens, and more! Bring a brown bag lunch for a picnic on the grounds. On the way back to Olympia, we will stop by Steamboat Island Nursery where you will find hundreds of uncommon and interesting species of trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, grasses, annuals, and temperennials for your garden and for outdoor containers.

Fee: \$10 donation to Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County and gas money to drivers.

Contact Lois at merriam@scattercreek.com or 264-6683 for reservations

JUNE 23, Saturday, SECOND ANNUAL TOUR OF NORTH SEATTLE GARDENING

Tour guides are Bob Findlay, OFM garden lead, and Marcia Killam-Nunn, MGFTC President. The day includes a private tour of the national Historic Register-listed Dunn Gardens (Findlay is Trust Board VP for Garden Conservation), lunch and discount shopping at Swanson's Nursery and an afternoon meander in the Kruckeberg Gardens/MsK Rare Plant Nursery in Richmond Beach. We depart the Lacey office at 8:00 am and return by 6:00 pm. LIMITED to 10 people.

Fee: \$50 minimum donation to the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County.

Contact Marcia at marcisun@aol.com or 866-0360.

The Fronderosa Frolic - Saturday & Sunday August 11-12 10am - 3pm

Fern nirvana & plant sale featuring specialty nurseries from Washington and Oregon as well as garden art and general hilarity. Fancy Fronds Nursery, Gold Bar, 360/793-1472 or www.fancyfronds.com for directions or information.