



# The Common Sense Gardener

Newsletter of the WSU Thurston County Master Gardeners, Master Composters, and the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2009

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## Cori's Corner

by Cori Carlton

I am excited about writing my first newsletter report. I have only been here for two weeks and already I have a list of people and items to be thankful for. First off I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome you have given me. The "meet and greet" on January 8<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful way to end my first day. I really appreciated the close to 60 Master Gardeners and Composters who came out for the wonderful potluck and continuing education session on

seed starts. For those who could not attend I hope to be able to meet and work with you soon.

I also want to thank Mitch Vorwerk, our AmeriCorps team member, for planning, organizing, and implementing everything that was needed to get our 2009 Master Gardener class off to a wonderful start. Mitch has really gone above and beyond to make sure this class went off without a hitch. We have a full class of 50 very energetic in-



terns and we look forward to learning

what skills and talents they bring to our group. I also wanted to thank the class mentors, foundation and garden representatives who came to our first class to make their introduction to the program so informative.

(Continued on next page)

## From the Foundation President

by Nancy Mills



While I'm sure there's still more winter ahead, everything is getting going for the new year! It

seems that things shut down in December and then take off like a team of horses in January. All the Foundation activities are in the planning stages and we're looking forward to another exciting time with

lots of opportunities for everyone to participate in.

First, be sure to get the following dates for Membership meetings in your calendars: April 9, June 25 and October 22. We're still working out the details including location and speakers, but we'll be sure to notify you. We also have the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Appreciation Day Picnic scheduled for August 9.

The plant sale team already has posters designed and printed! The first committee meeting will be February 25 from 9-11 at the WSU office in Lacey, which you are welcome to attend and bring your ideas.

(Continued on next page)

## Cori's Corner, cont.

Watch your mailboxes for a letter from me explaining the new 2009 Recommitment Application process. This form must be filled out and returned by all Master Gardeners and Master Composters. The Recommitment

Application is also a way to update our ListServ and roster information. A letter explaining the process will be located inside the packet. All forms should be returned to the Extension office by February 27, 2009.

will come your way. If I can be of any service to you please contact me at 360-786-5445 EXT.7910 or [carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us).

I look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

I hope you are excited about the start of a new year and all the Master Gardener/Master Composter opportunities that



## From The Foundation President, cont.

Please see Bob's article to see other specific ways in which you can help.

Garden Rhapsodies is planning to have gardens in the SW area of Olympia and Thurston County. There are still opportunities available for helping with enhanced education displays, and if you're interested, please contact Jennifer Johnson at [johnsoj@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:johnsoj@co.thurston.wa.us).

We're planning to define the soil mixtures and amendments that are available in the area so people know some more about what they can purchase for their garden use. We also want to highlight ways to facilitate drought tolerant gardening and have a bigger display on mulches.

Joan, Penny and Lois are already hard at work defining some great activities in the Let's Travel and Learn series. The Portland Plant, Gar-

den and Patio Show on February 27 is the first of many including the Hardy Plant Sale in Portland, a tour at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle, and one of our favorites, the Dunn Garden Tour with Bob Findlay, Docent. Please go to [www.mgftc.org](http://www.mgftc.org) for more details.

Thank you for all your enthusiasm and I look forward to seeing you all this year.

# Great Plants at Great Prices—Plant Sale

By Bob Findlay



We have begun planning for the sale day Saturday, May 16. We appreciate the past help that many of you have provided. Again, we will need your energy and enthusiasm to prepare and conduct this year's event since it is our primary fund raising event. It provides financial support to MG programs and helps bring many members of the 2009 MG class into the MG community.

**Volunteering** We are confirming our leads for areas of the plant stock as well as for sale day activities and will, with their help, flesh out our roster of volunteers. **It would help if you would contact us with your availability and areas of interest as a lead or to help.** Plant areas include Natives, Grasses, Roses, Great Plant Picks, Shade Perennials, Water-wise Perennials, Bulbs, Trees and Shrubs, Vegetables and Herbs. Sale day activities include the Friday Gala, Parking, Greeters, Information, Personal Shoppers, Holding, Hauling and Loading, Talliers, Cashiers, and Composters.

**Plant sale stock** We have received donations from Master

Gardeners, done digs at a number of gardens, and have purchased plants from a variety of suppliers. At this point in time we have about 3000 plants in the sale area. We are reaching one of our goals to have fewer plants but of high quality at the sale – thereby saving volunteer effort and maintaining funding levels. During **March** we will be open for more donations and selective garden digs as well as receiving previously ordered plants. **The gate is open Tuesdays from 9am-1pm and other times by prior arrangement.**

If you have been nurturing plants over the winter for the sale, please contact us with details so we can prepare labels and receive them. If they are not potted up, please either do so in at least 1 gal. pots or arrange to bring them in for potting at the sale site. Robust, well-identified plants are our goal. Remember that the **closing date for plant arrivals is Saturday, April 4** this year. We set this date six weeks before sale day, so that all plants have a chance to root into the pots, and get accurately labeled, priced and displayed for the sale.

*Some plants we would like to add to the sale stock:*

Japanese Blood Grass  
Black Mondo Grass  
Hardy Geraniums esp. 'Rozanne' and 'Mavis Simpson'  
Helenium 'Moerheim Beauty'  
Herbs, esp. French Tarragon  
Variegated Hostas i.e., 'Patriot'

Phlox  
Roses  
Penstemon  
Clematis  
Woolly Thyme  
Any identified on [www.GreatPlantPicks.org](http://www.GreatPlantPicks.org) unless noted in our "not needed" list below

*We have plenty of these plants in stock, thank you:*

Wild Ginger  
Grasses, esp. Carex 'Ice Dance' and Japanese Forest Grass 'Aureola'  
Catmint  
Daylilies  
Iris  
Euphorbia  
Hebes



Bergenia  
Evergreen Huckleberry  
Snowberry  
Kinnikinnick  
Lady's Mantle  
Calla Lily  
Amaryllis 'Naked Ladies' aka Surprise Lily  
Boxwoods

(Continued on page 5)

## DirtWorks Garden by Karen Walters



DirtWorks will open for the season on March 2. As usual we will be frantically working to get the garden looking its best by plant sale time, which is the third Saturday in May. We will start with the hours of 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday and Saturday, rain or shine. Our Thursday hours will begin after daylight savings time since these are evening hours; 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. or dusk (whichever comes first).

Our committee was glad to have the opportunity to meet with the new class to let them know a little about the garden and the changes that have taken place over

the last five years. We hope to see a great many interns at the garden and look forward to making new friends.

There will be fifteen workshops at the garden this season. We will be focusing quite a lot on food production and there are two workshops that will focus on our adaptive garden.

This year we will be installing our signage, and the garden transformation will be complete. We have come a long way in a short time and are really thankful for the support of the many Master Gardeners who worked hard and spent

many hours planning and doing some back breaking work, and the Master Gardener Foundation who believed in the vision we had and gave us funding, as well as the City of Olympia for giving us money for the mixed border.

On behalf of the DirtWorks Committee, we welcome the 2009 interns and we look forward to working with them at the garden and we hope to see all of our other Master Gardener friends as well. We are expecting this to be another fun gardening, learning and teaching season at DirtWorks.

## Olympia Farmer's Market Garden by Catherine Eddington



We are looking forward to the upcoming season at the garden. Several of the Steering Committee members went to the class introduction and we are excited to work with the new volunteers. They are ready to

be involved.

The Steering Committee will have a meet & greet on February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2-4 p.m. Location TBA. This is a chance to meet the committee members, garden volunteers and share ideas.

Our annual garden clean up is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> with an alternate date of March 21<sup>st</sup> in case of bad weather. We start about 9

a.m. and are usually done by 1 p.m. Bring your favorite tools and dress for the weather. It is a good time to meet new people, get familiar with the garden layout and feed that need to get outside and be in the garden!

The market opens on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.

# Closed Loop Park Garden

## Hours:

Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except holidays

**Master Gardener & Master Composter Volunteers are in the garden:**

Fridays and Saturdays  
March through November, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
April through October, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



## Plant Sale, cont.

Rhubarb  
Sea Holly  
Sea Lavender  
Saxifrage  
Skimmia  
Holly  
Euonymus

*And, please, no plants that are on the state or county*

*noxious plant lists*  
<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov>  
and <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/tcweeds/index.htm>

Keep us in mind when you break out your shovels this Spring!

*Bob Findlay and Nancy Mills, sale co-chairs and Pam Thayer, acquisitions*

## Garden Photos Wanted!

Calling all photographers! If you like to take photos of flowers or anything garden related we now have places for you to share these great pics. Each newsletter we are going to highlight a garden related photo that you take.

Also, we would love pictures to use at the annual meeting and for the website.

Send your photos to Cori Carlton at [carlto@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:carlto@co.thurston.wa.us) and let the Oooooohing and Aaaaaaahing begin.





## Valentine's Day Trivia (answers on last page of newsletter)

- The earliest Valentine's Day card was sent in \_\_\_\_\_ by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was a prisoner in the Tower to London. It is now in the British Museum.  
A. 1356                      B. 1415  
C. 1678                      D. 1906
- Cupid is associated with Valentine's Day because in Roman mythology he is the son of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Virgo                      B. Athena  
C. Venus                      D. Artemis
- True or False In Chicago, in the late nineteenth century, the post office rejected some twenty-five thousand cards on the ground that they were not fit to be carried through the U.S. Mail.
- The first American publisher of valentines was printer and artist Esther Howland. Her elaborate lace cards of the 1870's cost from \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. \$0.50-\$1.00              B. \$1.50-\$2.50  
C. \$3.00-\$4.50              D. \$5.00-\$10.00  
Since that time, the valentine business has flourished. With the exception of Christmas, Americans exchange more cards on Valentine's Day than at any other time of year.
- NECCO wafers have been made since the Civil War era. Which sayings have been around since 1902?  
A. "Kiss Me"                      B. "I Luv U"  
C. "Be Mine"                      D. Both A and C
- Which group of people eat the most amount of chocolate per year?  
A. Americans                      B. Swiss  
C. Australians                      D. Germans
- What year was the first Hershey's milk chocolate bar sold?  
A. 1878                      B. 1897  
C. 1900                      D. 1905
- Rank in order the following holidays which Americans buy the most chocolate for.  
A. Easter                      1.  
B. Christmas/Hanukkah              2.  
C. Valentine's Day                      3.  
D. Halloween                      4.
- In the days when few people could write, their signature was represented by which symbol.  
A. O                      B. X  
C. \*                      D. □
- True or False At one time ancient people used the beans from the Cacao tree (the beans that make chocolate) as a form of money.
- How many cacao (chocolate) beans do you need to make a pound of chocolate?  
A. 125                      B. 190  
C. 250                      D. 400
- True or False Before 1730 chocolate was only eaten by rich people.

# Updates and Reminders

## Happy Birthday!



We celebrate our Master Gardeners and Master Composters everyday but we want to send extra special wishes by highlighting their birthdays in the upcoming newsletters. When you complete your recommitment application be sure to share with us your special day (month and day only) so that way we can recognize it in our new birthday section.

## Spotlight On.....by Cori Carlton

This new section of the newsletter will highlight a Master Gardener/Master Composter volunteer with the hopes of getting to know one another a little better. Since I'm new to the program I figured I would spotlight myself first since it's never fair to put someone under the light without being there yourself.

My name is Cori Carlton and I am the new Master Gardener/Master Composter Program Manager for WSU Thurston County Extension. I am extremely excited to have joined this program and anxious to get to know each and every one of you. I grew up in Michigan where my parents and younger sister still live; my older sister lives in Atlanta, GA.

I graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in Recreation Park Administration, Biology, Natural Resources and

## Timecards

Don't forget first quarter time cards are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Blank timecards can be downloaded from the WSU Thurston County Master Gardener website at <http://thurston.wsu.edu/MasterGardener/>.

Hard copies are also located in the Lacey clinic and at each demonstration garden.



Conservation.

I moved to Washington in February of 1998. My interest in the natural world started early on and grew as I grew. I loved spending as much time in our backyard and exploring the woods by my parents' house. My dad's garden was also a highlight even if my punishment for being bad was pulling weeds. After I graduated I knew being a Camp Director for an Environmental Education program is what I wanted to do. After interning and working seasonally I landed a director job at YMCA Camp Ohiyesa in Holly, Michigan. The following year I was moved to YMCA Camp Colman in Longbranch, WA. I was their Environmental Education Director for the next four and half years. After wanting some new challenges I got a job as the Education Program Coor-



## Seasonal Questions

For each newsletter we are going to ask a seasonal question. Send your answers to Cori Carlton at [carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us). Some of your answers will be highlighted in an upcoming newsletter.

- What is your most favorite part of spring?
- What was your most favorite Mother's Day or Father's Day gift you have received?

inator for Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. I coordinated the park's education programs/events and worked in volunteer and staff management.

My other interests include collecting anything with ladybugs, banana slugs, M & M candy characters, Peeps candy characters (yellow bunnies are my favorite) and anything from the movie "Finding Nemo." I love spending time outside, gardening (even though I don't have a green thumb), riding my bike, watching movies and going on trips. Near or far I love to explore and meet new people. I am so excited to meet and work with all of you and see where this journey goes.

That's a little about me and in the next newsletter one of your fellow gardeners or composters will be in the spotlight.



*“For those who have not taken a soil sample from their lawn in the past couple of years, now would be an excellent time to do so.”*

## Ask the Expert by Don Tapio

**Question:** After all of the snow, our lawn looks terrible. Would it be okay to fertilize it now?

**Answer:** There's no question that home lawns have taken a real beating with the recent arrival and prolonged cold spell. Most turfgrasses are still in a state of winter dormancy. Making a fertilizer application at this time would have minimum value in increasing overall turfgrass vigor and aesthetic appeal.

You can however, get a head start on next spring's lawn care by applying

lime now. The winter rains during these idle months will help get the lime into the soil. Apply no more than 50 pounds of lime per 1,000 square feet. For those who have not taken a soil sample from their lawn in the past couple of years, now would be an excellent time to do so.

**Question:** Now that the temperatures have warmed up, our lawn has started to grow. Is it too early to mow and apply moss killer?

**Answer:** Mowing the lawn this time of year will not only improve the over-

all appearance of your turf, but also help invigorate grass growth.

When turfgrasses become too long, it is difficult to get them back to the suggested mowing height of an inch and a half without stressing both the shoots and roots.

Moss killer applied now will be effective in temporarily reducing moss infestations. Longer term moss control will occur when drier weather and longer day length arrive this summer.

## Board News by Toni Ghazal

Winter greetings from the Board! This time of the year is a quiet and rejuvenating break for everyone. However dreams and plans for which seeds or plants to purchase are never that far away. We hope that by now most of you have met our new program director. Cori Carlton brings experience and excitement to our Master Gardeners' program and we look forward to working closely with her. The Board hosted a meet and greet event on January 8<sup>th</sup> to introduce Cori. It was well attended, food was fantastic, and Lois Willman gave an informative and entertaining talk on vegetable seed germi-

nation. Thank you to everyone that attended and welcome Cori to our organization!

The Board would also like to welcome its new members. Diane Stanger is the Treasurer and Cindy Hoover is the State Representative. Welcome aboard and thank you for your time and talents. We are off to another busy and fun Master Gardener Year.

Happy Gardening!

*“Helping Gardeners Grow!”*

**President:**  
Nancy Mills

**Vice President:**  
Bill Longnecker

**Secretary:**  
Toni Ghazal

**Treasurer:**  
Diane Stanger

**Member-at-Large:**  
Deb Welt

**State Representative:**  
Cindy Hoover

## Northwest Flower and Garden Show

Come by the NHS booth February 18 – 22 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, Washington for a visual treat. Every year, the Northwest Flower and Garden Show provides a joyful respite from the dark, dreary days of winter. Beautifully landscaped gardens, incredible educational seminars, lots and lots of retail goodies, and fabulously choice plants for sale enlighten the spirits.

This year, NW Horticultural Society (NHS) will host a booth in the educational section, close to the Plant Market. We will feature container gardens designed exclusively with plant material chosen as Great Plant Picks by the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden; our booth will be adjacent to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, a partnership fostered by Elisabeth Miller (who also started NHS).

Additionally, we will offer 20-minute design consultations with well-known garden designers such as writer and speaker Marty Wingate, Wendy Welch Garden Design, Phil Woods Gardens, and more! Make an appointment, then

bring pictures and your questions about a problem section of your garden, and the designers will give you free ideas and advice.

We will also feature “Ask Ciscoe” sessions with our own radio and T.V. personality, Ciscoe Morris.

Check out our web site at [www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org) for times and reservation information, or call 206.780.8172.

**Two upcoming events, held at NHS Hall, Center for Urban Horticulture (University of Washington Botanic Gardens):**

**March 11, 2009**

*Mediterranean Garden Style in the Pacific Northwest*

6:45 p.m. Reception, 7:15 p.m.

Lecture

\$5 members/\$10 non-members

**March 14, 2009**

*Spring Ephemerals and Companion Plants Sale*



9:00 a.m. -  
4:00 p.m.

**A special event:**

*Three Great Plant Picks – Dryopteris lepidopoda in the center, nestled in amongst Epimedium x rubrum and Brunnera macrophyllia ‘Jack Frost’.*

**2009 Spring Symposium  
March 21, 2009 at Bastyr University Auditorium**

*The New Gardening Approach: Great Design for Sustainability, Habitat and Biodiversity*

Lunch included.

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$65 (\$45 NHS Members)

For more information on these events: 206-527-1794

[www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org)

*(Contributed by Joyce Hawkins)*

## Let's Travel and Learn by Joan Hoffmeyer



Lois Willman, Penny Locke and myself have put our heads together and have come up with some fun, exciting and educational activities for 2009.

First on our schedule is the **Yard, Garden and Patio Show** in Portland on 2/27/09 followed by a glass blowing class by **Artbyfire** in Ballard on 3/18/09.

Prior to the Membership meeting with Kelly Dodson, we will have a trip to Far Reaches, Bloedel and Dragonfly gardens on 3/28/09.

Next on our agenda will be the

**Hardy Plant Sale** in Portland on 4/11/09.

This is just a sampling of what we have come up with. Thus far we have activities scheduled through October. We have so many ideas that we decided we'd better save some for next year! As the time draws nearer to each activity, you will receive a more detailed announcement by email.

## Fun Valentine's Day Facts

### Did you know?

\*In early times the only kind of chocolate was dark or semisweet chocolate. In order to use less cocoa powder, (which was expensive) some candy-makers added ground-up peas, then stirred in powdered bricks to make the chocolate darker! Yuck!

\*Hershey makes an average of 33 million chocolate Kisses a day.

\*People once believed a young woman would

know the kind of man she'd marry by watching for certain birds flying overhead on Valentine's Day. A robin meant she'd get hitched to a sailor, while a goldfinch signaled a rich man in her future. Seeing a sparrow meant she'd marry a poor man, but still be happy.

\*M & M's candy was first produced for soldiers as a treat that wouldn't melt in their pockets.



\*Milk Dud's first appeared in stores in 1926. They were supposed to be perfectly round, but since they weren't, these bite-sized candies were called "duds."

## Contributors to this Issue

Cori Carlton  
Nancy Mills  
Catherine Eddington  
Karen Walters  
Don Tapio  
Joan Hoffmeyer  
Bob Findlay  
Toni Ghazal  
Joyce Hawkins

Thank you to all of our contributors for sharing such helpful and informative articles and beautiful pictures.

Are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? Please let Cori know at: [carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us)

Interested  
in contributing  
to the  
newsletter?  
Let Cori  
know!



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

"Helping Gardeners Grow"

720 Sleater-Kinney Road SE Suite Y
Lacey, Washington 98503



Membership and Sponsor Application

I wish to be an Individual (MG/MC) or Associate Member of the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County. Dues of \$10 per calendar year, Jan - Dec, are enclosed. Individual and Associate Members may vote and hold elective office. They may attend Member Meetings, classes and events at no charge.

Year MG \_\_\_ Year MG \_\_\_

I wish to be a Business Member of the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County. Dues are \$25 per calendar year, Jan - Dec, and are enclosed. Business Members may vote and hold elective office, They will receive a framed Certificate of Membership, and may attend Member Meetings and events at no charge.

I wish to become a Sponsor of the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County at the below level, which is enclosed. Sponsors' names will be prominently displayed at Master Gardener Plant Sales, at Membership Meetings, and at other locations and venues as appropriate. Sponsors will receive a letter acknowledging their tax-deductible contribution.

- \_\_\_ Friend: \$50 - \$99
\_\_\_ Donor: \$100 - \$249
\_\_\_ Patron: \$250 - \$499
\_\_\_ Benefactor: \$500 - \$1,000+

The Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation organized and existing under the provisions of the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act (Chapter 24.03 of the Revised Code of Washington) with a Tax ID # 91-1898726. Your contributions are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/ Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to have my/our name listed as: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Web Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: "MGFTC"

Mail to: MGFTC Attn: Membership
720 Sleater-Kinney Road SE Suite Y
Lacey, Washington 98503

Interests: Please tell us the areas which interest you:

- \_\_\_ Plant Sale \_\_\_ Garden Rhapsodies \_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_ Newsletter
\_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_ Foundation Board \_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_ Composting

Skills: Please let us know of any special skills or interests you have and may like to share: \_\_\_\_\_

- Computer \_\_\_ Accounting \_\_\_ Grant Writing \_\_\_ Legal \_\_\_ Crafts \_\_\_ Artist \_\_\_ Leadership \_\_\_ Teaching \_\_\_



720 Sleater-Kinney Rd SE, Ste Y  
Lacey, WA 98503

# The Common Sense Gardener

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2009

## Valentine's Trivia Answers

1. B-1415
2. C-Venus, goddess of love and beauty.
3. True
4. D-\$5.00-\$10.00
5. D-Both A and C "Kiss Me" and "Be Mine"
6. B-Swiss, averaging 22 pounds per person. Americans average 10 pounds per person
7. C-1900
8. 1. Halloween 2. Easter 3. Christmas/Hanukkah 4. Valentine's Day
9. B. X In the days when few people could write, their signature cross, or "X", was a legally valid mark. To emphasize their complete sincerity in an accord, they often kissed the mark. It was this practice of kissing the "X" that led to its becoming a symbol of a kiss. During World War II, the British and American governments both forbade men in the armed forces from putting "XX's" on their letters, afraid that spies within the services might begin sending secret messages coded as kisses.
10. True-At one time ancient people used the beans from the Cacao tree (the beans that make chocolate) as a form of money. 3 beans=turkey egg, 100 beans=turkey hen, 1,000 beans=feather cape
11. D-400 beans
12. True-Before 1730 chocolate was only eaten by rich people.