



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 2

APRIL 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Plant Sale	2-3
Board News	3
Volunteer Spotlight	4
Mother's Day and Earth Day Fun	5
Volunteer Birthdays	5
Ask the Expert	6
Volunteer Snapshot	6
Inside Story	6
Announcements	7
Master Composter News	7
Book Corner	7
Meet Mitch	8
Garden Rhapsodies	9
Garden News	10-11
Earth Day Quiz Answers	12

Cori's Corner by Cori Carlton

It's been about three months since I began and what a wonderful, whirlwind experience it has been even with all the economic threats around us. Now more than ever our community will be looking to Master Gardeners and Master Composters to help them reconnect with the land that surrounds them. Over the past few weeks I have seen a significant increase in requests for garden information and presentations. Growing your own food and being a better steward of the land are revitalized interests in

our community's mind. I hope that we as the Master Gardeners and Master Composters of Thurston County can continue to grow and meet our community's needs even more. Help by spreading the word about our organization: talk about the great work going on in our gardens, the workshops we host, our clinics or help a neighbor or friend learn more about gardening.

On a personal note thank you for sharing your knowledge and making me feel so welcome. The

passion you have for one another and this program glimmers so bright I'm sure it can be seen from space. Please keep this passion and enthusiasm alive as it will sustain us as we weather through these uncertain times. Remember each day has reasons for celebration.

Have a happy April and May!



From the Foundation President by Nancy Mills



Good Golly, are we ever going to see real spring weather this year? We're a little behind the curve with getting in plants from your gardens for the plant sale because of the snow the first three weeks in March. Please be sure to see Bob Findlay and my message elsewhere in this newsletter, since we definitely need to get some perennials in quickly to fill in the gaps.

Since monetary support of the MG/MC Program is the reason for our existence, the Board is keeping a close eye on the impacts of the WSU and Thurston County budget cuts. Just like everyone else, we're a little apprehensive of what's in store for us with our money generating efforts. We don't know what the impact of the economy will be on our plant sale, but we hope that our reputation for "Great Plants at Great Prices" will have people flocking to it, and that we'll have a strong year. We have seen a

reduction in Compost Bin sales over the last year for several reasons, thus lower profits. Garden Rhapsodies remains a great bargain, and we hope that people will continue to take a break and tour some of the wonderful gardens we have here in Thurston County.

What can you do to help keep the MG/MC programs alive and well besides coming out to the gardens or events?

(Continued on next page)

From the Foundation President, cont.

One of the biggest things is to promote the program and foundation activities within your own personal social circles. Word of mouth advertising is one of the most effective forms of communication there is. How many times have you asked a friend “Do you know someone who does XYZ”, or “Who do you go to for health care?” Chances are that you at least investigated their response. Are there areas in your life where you could open up and share about the MG/MC activities? What about at work, your favorite golf club, book

club, cooking group, neighborhood association, exercise club, choir rehearsal, religious groups, etc.? We have lovely brochures, flyers and bookmarks being designed and printed at low cost by WSU Publications in order to help spread the word. There are also great brochures from Water and Waste Management to spread out there about the compost bin sales. We'll be bringing them to the membership meeting on April 9 (and they are available at the Lacey office between 9-1) and hope that you have thought of at

least one place you can show them, if not post them or hand them out. I'm amazed when I speak to my other friends, how many have never even heard of the MG/MC programs. Let's change that!

When belonging to an organization, we all have the responsibility of doing what we can to help keep it financially solvent. Please help us by sharing YOUR enthusiasm for OUR programs with YOUR friends. And thank you very much!

“This is a great opportunity for the Class of 2009 to join in the effort and to become acquainted with Foundation programs and other MG volunteers.”



Great Plants at Great Prices—2009 Master Gardener Foundation Plant Sale

by Bob Findlay (rfindlay@iastate.edu) and Nancy Mills (nlmills@msn.com), co-chairs

Spring is upon us, finally, and we have been able to begin the final preparations for the sale day, May 16. It is great to see

MGs re-appear at the sale site on Tuesday mornings to nurture our plant stock back to marketability, and many of you have agreed to help once again with sale day itself. Our sale day and plant -type lead volunteers are completing their work teams. You can wait for their call, or better yet, contact us, and we will find a role for you. This is a great opportunity for the Class of 2009 to join in the effort and to become acquainted with foundation programs and other MG volunteers.

The reward for all volunteers making these efforts is the Friday evening gala at the sale site. There will be nibbles and sips, an update on sale day activity, an opportunity to preview the sale site and plant stock, and the possibility to purchase up to five plants to take home that evening. We have a large selection of plants available this year; many Great Plant Picks, landscape trees and shrubs, an extraordinary array of grasses,

(Continued on next page)

Plant Sale, cont.



Northwest natives, shade loving plants, herbs and vegetables, and an impressive water-wise perennials section. It is in this last area, however, that we could use more donations of perennials of most types

from your gardens. As examples, variegated and big leaf hostas, evergreen ferns, epimedium rubrum and other extraordinary

plants are needed. See a more complete list in the February newsletter or contact either of us to confirm needs and donations.

Our deadline for intake is Saturday, April 4, so pull on your mud boots

and see what needs dividing in your garden. We welcome well-identified, robust plant divisions, and 7-14 pots of each type work best for the sale.

We have had a small, dedicated and very productive crew working since the last sale, it is now time for all of us to rally around this major fund raiser for our programs. We are hoping that the 'Great Plants at Great Prices' tagline will ring true for area gardeners during these difficult economic times.

"We are hoping that the 'Great Plants at Great Prices' tagline will ring true for area gardeners during these difficult economic times."

Board News by Toni Ghazal

Spring greetings from the Board! Spring is just around the corner. Trust me it is. The robins and daffodils are positive that it will arrive. Another sure sign of spring is the anticipation of the Plant Sale and Garden Rhapsodies tour that MG/MC host every year. Both of these events have raised much needed funds for our organization and this year will be no exception. We need volunteers for both events and we need word of mouth advertising. Working at one or both events is fun and a good way to meet fellow gardeners. We also need to have flyers and bookmarks for these events to be distributed out to

the public. Do you have a favorite store that you frequent? The veterinary clinic? Your work place? Bible study group? Book club? Neighbors? The list is endless. Please consider posting flyers where appropriate and hand out bookmarks to individuals.

Our spring membership meeting scheduled for April 9th is not to be missed. Kelly Dodson will be our speaker and the meeting place is at the Steilacoom Fire House. <http://mgftcmeetingdetails.mgftc.org> Just click on this link and it will give you all the details. While you are reading

about the meeting why don't you just surf around our website and discover all sorts of interesting tidbits. It's there for you to use and will probably answer all those questions you had and didn't know who to ask!

Happy Gardening!

Volunteer in the Spotlight



*Master Gardener
volunteer
Deborah Welt*

Deborah G Welt
2005 Master Gardener
2004 Master Composter

Where did you grow up? My father was in the Army for 34 years so I grew up everywhere we were stationed. This included: Germany, Washington State and Texas. My parents originally are from Woonsocket RI, a yarn mill town where most of the population in the area was and still is French/Canadian. My folk's first language is French. So you could say I'm 1st generation English speaking. My parents fell in love with the Pacific Northwest while stationed here when I was a wee small child. Even though we only lived here a short time they never stopped talking about the area and how beautiful and green everything was. After being stationed at Fort Bliss (alias Ft. Blister) Texas for 8 years, green was notable! My husband and I jumped at the opportunity to move here after being laid off from our jobs in Texas.

How long have you lived in Thurston County? My husband and I moved here February 14, 1998 from Spokane.

This is where I first noticed the Master Gardener program. Phyllis Stevens had a weekly radio talk show very similar to our own Ciscoe Morris. My goal very soon after moving North was to learn as much as possible about growing anything I could.

Family or Pets? We have two children, a son Joshua, 31, who lives in Madison, WI, and a daughter Lisa, 30, living in Vancouver, WA. Lisa has given us 2 adorable granddaughters, Allyson Rae, 41/2, and Abigail Marie who just turned 3.

Scarlett, our dog, is now 15 and was rescued from the pound in Spokane. Miss Prissy, the cat, was given to us by dear friends that recognized our need to see the beauty of wild creatures also known as the domesticated cat.

Hobbies? Quilting and sewing are my winter hobbies of choice. I have a fabric stash that my husband already knows will go to my grave as my shroud. I try to take classes to keep up with the latest and greatest new tools and notions and am not surprised to see many of the same folks from Master Gardening. I also

have recently taken up knitting and promise not to give you any of my works of art for a very long time.

My favorite part of being a Master Gardener? That's easy! I'd really have to say my fellow Master Gardeners are my favorite tool and resource! I have felt very fortunate to have met so many wonderful and knowledgeable people. I know I have made friends that will last a life-time with a little cultivating and care.

Comments? I have heard many a new and old Master Gardener state that they felt the title Master Gardener can be intimidating. I must say I never felt worthy of such a title. After 5 years in the program I still want to continue to learn and grow. I also remind myself that I'm not meant to be a walking encyclopedia about the plant world. My job is to learn how to find the answers. I value each of you and am grateful for your friendships, willingness to share your experiences, and knowledge.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is coming up on May 10. Happy Mother's Day!

My mother had a slender, small body, but a large heart - a heart so large that everybody's joys found welcome in it, and hospitable accommodation.

~Mark Twain

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. ~Tenneva Jordan

The earliest celebration honoring mothers dates back to the annual spring festival of ancient Greece dedicated to Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. The Greeks would pay tribute with honey-cakes and fine drinks and flowers at dawn.

Earth Day—April 22

Earth Day is April 22nd. Master Gardener and Master Composters know how to keep your garden "green" but how about inside your home? Test your recycling knowledge by taking this quiz.

1) Recycling one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt bulb for _____ hours.

2) Americans throw out enough aluminum every _____ months to rebuild our entire fleet of commercial airplanes in the United States.

3) How many trees are used each year to make enough paper for a family of five to use? _____ trees

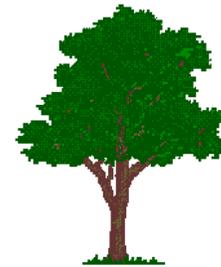
4) Plastic soda bottles can be recycled to make clothing. How many soda bottles would it take to make an adult sized suit? _____ bottles

5) How many cans would you have to recycle to produce enough electricity to watch TV for 3 hours? _____ can(s).

6) What is the largest part of household waste? _____

7) Recycling a six-pack of aluminum cans saves the same amount of energy needed to drive a car _____ miles.

The answers can be found on the back page.



Earth Day - Every Day

Earth Day is coming up on April 22— check out opportunities to volunteer in your area at [www.volunteer match.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)

April and May Volunteer Birthdays

By filling out our Recommitment form we now have the pleasure of wishing our fellow Master Gardeners and Master Composters a Happy Birthday. Wishing you a year full of health, happiness, and gardening bliss!

Cindy Hoover-April 9th

Bea Schmidt-April 10th

Virginia McCabe-April 13th

Peggy O'Keefe-April 20th

Linda Lufkin-April 22nd

Sharon Brown-April 23rd

Robin Feuling-April 26th

Teresa Morris McGee-May 1st

Sarah Ann Lambrix-May 7th

Paula Nelson-May 9th

Janet Norris-May 9th

Norman Gallacci-May 13th

Toni Ghazal-May 16th

Pat Lazar-May 18th

Lois Willman-May 19th

If your birthday is in April or May and you don't see your name on the list please contact Cori so we can update our files.





“But how economical is that home vegetable garden? Pretty economical—if you choose your crops wisely and know what you’re doing.”

Ask the Expert by Don Tapio

Question: Like many others, we have decided to grow a vegetable garden this year to help out with the family food budget. Since we have limited space, we are wondering which vegetables would give us the greatest return on our investment?

Answer: There's no question that cost conscious Americans are going back to the land to grow their own beans, squash, corn and tomatoes in backyard gardens. A recent survey of 2,500 households by the National Gardening Association bears this out. Nearly 37 percent of those surveyed said they plan to grow their own food this year, up 6 percent from a year ago. Fruits and vegetables will be a priority for 34.5 percent of gardeners, up 108 percent from 2006, according to survey results released this week. In fact,

according to George Ball of the W. Atlee Burpee Company, sales of vegetables and herb seed and plants are up 30 to 40 percent over 2007 which is more than double the annual growth of the last five years. Last year, vegetable seeds out sold flowers for the first time in recent memory.

But how economical is that home vegetable garden? Pretty economical—if you choose your crops wisely and know what you're doing. According to Ball, the average cost-benefit ratio of home-grown vegetables is 1 to 25, based on a garden of 30 vegetables his company studied last year. That means for every dollar spent on a garden produces \$25 worth of vegetables. However, with six of the most popular vegetables—tomatoes, beans, peas, bell

peppers, butterhead lettuce and carrots, the ratio is even better. A \$10.00 investment in those seeds plus \$80.00 to pay for soil, fertilizer and the cost of preparing the planting bed could yield \$650 worth of vegetables—a savings theoretically of \$560.

Aside from saving money, growing your own vegetables makes it a lot easier to get the minimum "five-a-day" servings of veggies and fruits the experts now recommend for health. Most common fruits and vegetables are packed with not only the vitamins and minerals already known to support good health, but also help to boost the immune system, retard the aging process, and help halt or prevent many chronic diseases.

(Continued on page 8)

Photo by Paul Munson



Looking for something new for your backyard? Try this..... One 16' fence panel (\$35) produces two inverted Vs the width of the 4' wide raised bed. The second panel provides a canopy over the 8' long bed. The six rows of 70 and 90 day maturing peas will feed many.

Volunteer Snapshot

Master Gardeners and Master Composters have many talents to share with

the public and with each other. One of those talents is photography! Whether it's a hobby or a profession, you all have fabulous garden photos to share. If you would like to have

one of your photo's highlighted in one of the upcoming newsletters please send a print to the office or by email at carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us. If you want, submit a short caption with your photo to describe the image. If you submit a print please make sure you have your name on back of the photo and state if you would like it returned or not. Thanks!

This image was submitted by Master Gardener Paul Munson.

Special Announcements and Reminders



Help! We Need Your Cost Saving Gardening Tips

Mary Carlson is working on a demonstration booth for the upcoming Garden Rhapsodies Garden Tour on July 25, 2009. The demonstration will

highlight cost saving gardening tips. With the current economic times the way they are this is a perfect time to share some of your gardening secrets and help a fellow gardener. Get your creative juices flowing and send Mary your thoughts and tips. Her email is: wingandaprayer@reachone.com

Thanks!

Time Cards Due April 15

Don't forget first quarter time cards

are due by April 15th. Blank timecards can be downloaded from the WSU Thurston County Master Gardener website at

<http://thurston.wsu.edu/MasterGardener/>. Hard copies are also available in the Lacey clinic and at each demonstration garden.

Master Composter News

Master Composter Training

If you are interested in becoming certified as a Master Composter please email Cori for an application.

Training dates are: May 7, 21, 28, 30, June 6, 13, 2009. Each class is two hours long. The class costs \$50.00. Current Master Gardeners will have a reduced volunteer hour commitment than non Master Gardeners. For more

information contact Cori or Shanna Winters.

Current Master Composters Meeting Scheduled

Current Master Composters are asked to attend a planning meeting on Tuesday, April 14th at 7pm in the conference room at the Extension Office. We are asking for input on



Apply now to take the Master Composter training!

certification requirements, timecards, mentor duties, book suggestions, community outreach, workshops and overall operations. Be a pioneer and help us make this program everything you want it to be!

Book Corner — A Sampling of New Releases

Visit www.trl.org to see about checking out a copy of one of these new releases.

How to Grow Herbs: A Practical Guide to Growing 18 Essential Culinary Herbs, with Step-by-Step Techniques and 185 Colour Photographs by Richard Bird

Gardeners' World: 101 Ideas for Veg from Small Spaces: Get Tasty Crops from the Tiniest of Plots (Gardeners World 101 Ideas) by Gardeners' World Magazine

The Kitchen Garden by Alan Buckingham

The Garden of Invention: Luther Bur-

bank and the Business of Breeding Plants by Jane S. Smith

Understanding Perennials: A New Look at an Old Favorite by William Cullina

Container Gardener's Companion: Growing Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs Anywhere by Jack Kramer

“In home gardens, it's recommended that all manure be well composted before being added to soil where vegetables or fruit will be growing.”

Ask the Expert, cont.

Although the average size of vegetable gardens is 600 square feet, about half of backyard gardens are 100 square feet or less, according to the National Gardening Association survey. Gardens don't have to be big to be productive-- using space saving techniques lets you make the most of the area you have. Plant breeders have developed many compact varieties well suited for limited space and container gardening. For a good return on space, consider growing peppers, snap beans and green onions; bush varieties of squash and cucumbers; and root crops such as radishes, carrots and beets.

Trellising is another great way to increase the yield per square foot of space. Plants that trellis well include cucumbers, tomatoes and peas.

Raised beds will help organize the garden and have the added advantage of letting you concentrate on the most

productive vegetables. They are easy to build, and because they allow you to use near perfect soil, your plants will be their most productive too.

Question: Our neighbor told us we should not use livestock manure in our garden because of E. coli. Is this true?

Answer: Pathogens (microorganisms which cause disease) can be transferred from animal manures to humans. The pathogens salmonella, listeria and E. coli 0157:H7, as well as parasites, such as roundworms and tapeworms, have been linked to applications of manure to gardens. Publicity about illnesses due to E.coli 0157:H7, has made people more aware of the potential risk of food borne illness from manure contamination. As a result, many are now asking whether it is safe to use manure in their gardens.

In home gardens, it's recommended that all manure be

well composted before being added to soil where vegetables or fruit will be growing. The compost should heat to 140 degrees F. for five days or more to be effective. Never apply fresh manure after the garden is growing. Never use cat, dog or pig manure in vegetable gardens or compost piles. Parasites that may be in these types of manure are more likely to survive and infect people than those in other types of manure. It is also important to keep your pets out of your vegetable garden. For some gardeners, the best time to apply raw manure to the garden may be in the fall after harvest. Composted manure added to the garden in the Spring should be thoroughly tilled into the soil prior to planting. Packaged manure products should be safe to use as most have been steam treated which kills harmful bacteria. It's always a good idea to thoroughly wash all produce especially root crops such as carrots, beets, radishes, and onions prior to eating.

Meet Mitch by Mitchell Vorwerk

Hello Master Gardener & Master Composters! I just realized that, even though I have been working with the Master Gardeners since October, I have not taken the time to formally introduce myself.

My name is Mitch Vorwerk. I grew up on a farm in SE Minnesota where my family continues to farm soybeans, corn, wheat, peas, and hogs. I have completed a year of service with AmeriCorps



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Meet Mitch, cont.

NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) in 2005-2006. Which was an amazing year of my life where I got to do all kinds of work such as: wetland restoration in FL, tutor & mentor 4th graders in SC, build trails in TN, work in the Arkansas Children's Hospital, and clean-out and build new houses in the Gulf region after Katrina struck. AmeriCorps was great because it taught me the power of volunteering and I also got to meet some absolutely incredible people.

During my AmeriCorps term I discovered a love for plants and the outdoors, which prompted me to study Horticulture for 2 years at the

University of Wisconsin- River Falls. Then in September of 2008, I packed all of my stuff into a trailer and moved out to Olympia to study Ethnobotany at The Evergreen State College.

In the meantime, I am acquiring my Washington residency and working for AmeriCorps again. Only this time I'm working as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the 4-H and Master Gardener programs in Thurston County. In my service with the Master Gardener program, I have worked extensively with the recruitment and training of the 2009 class of Interns. This year's class has gotten off to a great start and I would like to thank

everyone who has helped me out in this learning process, I could not have done it without you!

I am eager to see what the rest of the year has in store for me and the Master Gardener program. I am excited that I will be able to continue to be a Master Gardener and contribute to the program even after my AmeriCorps term ends in August. I have truly enjoyed meeting everyone and am looking forward to getting out there and gardening with you!

"This year's class has gotten off to a great start and I would like to thank everyone who has helped me out in this learning process, I could not have done it without you!"

Garden Rhapsodies Tour Update by Sandy Atkinson

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday July 25, 2009 — 10 am to 4 pm

The 2009 Tour will include seven gardens in southwest Olympia and western parts of Thurston County off Delphi Road. Our Shuttle site will be at the Olympia National Forest Headquarters at 1835 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia. In vigorous effort to avoid the bus problems in 2008, we are contracting with a historically more reliable bus company. In addition we are planning for more buses and a tighter turn around schedule.

As in years past, tickets will be available in July at many physical sites throughout the county including the Olympia Farmers Market. This year we have added 6 new ticket vendors to our existing list of 9. The price for tickets at these sites will be \$15. A list of vendor sites is available at www.MGFTC.org.

For the first time, we are offering the option to buy tickets on-line and to pay with a credit card via a secure portion of our www.MGFTC.org website. We are charging an additional \$0.50 to cover processing costs. Hence, a ticket ordered on-line

will cost \$15.50. Physical tickets for the on-line purchases will be available at the WILL CALL area of the shuttle site on July 25th. Online purchases can be made now! So encourage your friends and family to buy early in support of our Tour and the MGFTC.

As in past years, we have an on going need for Master Gardener and Master Composter volunteers to help on this educational project. We would like to see new volunteers now and continuing through the date of the Tour. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Erica Guttman at ericaguttman@gmail.com.

Olympia Farmer's Market News by Catherine Eddington



Our annual garden cleanup was a huge success. We had a great team of volunteers, interns and veterans, who came down despite the very wet weather. All the Arctic Blue willows in the pond area were pruned back along with the grasses. We removed an old over grown Rock Rose, installed two arbors, pruned back the Rosa Rogosa and

cleaned out the clinic building.

The market opens on Thursday April 2nd. Our volunteers will be cleaning up the garden beds, transplanting two roses, spreading compost and continuing our project of labeling the plants. The next big project we have is to re-gravel the pathways.

A huge THANK YOU to Batdorf & Bronson for donating coffee for our cold and wet workers, to David for building and installing the arbors, to Tami for making several trips to dispose of the garden debris and everyone who came down with their tools to help out in the rain.

DirtWorks Garden News by Karen Walters

"It is so much fun to meet new people you can enjoy gardening with. That is one of the best parts of being a Master Gardener."

We have had the most interesting weather at DirtWorks on our official work days. It was hard to believe that Spring was just around the corner with all the snow, and ice on the beds when we arrived at the garden to work. I must say, the garden is looking very good regardless of what Mother Nature is throwing at us.

2004 that we come to the garden and don't have construction going on. So when you visit, you will notice that the garden is in the best shape it has ever been in at this time of year. Instead of hauling dirt and gravel and constructing things, we have concentrated on deadheading and cleaning up the beds. The application of mulch in the fall has really helped with keeping down weeds. Now if we could just talk those moles into going over to the ball fields.....

They may require some protection from the cold as they will be early bloomers.

Our maintenance guys finished up readying the vegetable beds for covering. So hopefully we will have a bumper crop of vegetables this year. The Stellar Jays and rabbits have always played havoc in these beds. So for now, we have cool weather crops started. Watch the Friday Flash for our work schedule. I'll let you know when we will be planting the vegetable beds, and you are welcome to come and help, or use the time for a learning Experience.

A meeting was held for the Children's Garden, and we planned the theme of our lessons for the ten weeks of summer.



A children's work-

It has been a pleasure, in the short time the garden has been open, to meet and work with some of the enthusiastic 2009 interns. It is so much fun to meet new people you can enjoy gardening with. That is one of the best parts of being a Master Gardener.

Our most recent acquisition to the garden is two mini-dwarf apple trees and an Italian Plum. The apple trees are in pots, and the Italian Plum takes the place of an apple tree that was diseased. The apple trees will have ripe apples in August so the children that visit the Children's Garden will be able to pick them.

This year is the first year since

(Continued on next page)

DirtWorks Garden News, cont.



Two of the new interns are going to

take on the teaching of some lessons and another intern will come to help with the children and their garden task. We have a great group of Master Gardeners who work with the children, and each year it is good to have more who are willing to help. If we can keep our work groups small, the children learn so much more.

April 4th and April 8th are the first

public workshops at DirtWorks and will be held in the gazebo at 10 am. Master Gardeners are also welcome to attend. April 4th will be *Seed Starting for the Vegetable Garden* and April 18th will be *Growing Vegetable and Preserving What You Grow*.

The DirtWorks Committee looks forward to the gardening season and hope to see you in the garden!

“April 4th and April 8th are the first public workshops at DirtWorks and will be held in the gazebo at 10 am.”

Closed Loop Garden News by Bobbie Liberty

Sunshine.....where art thou? Even though we have had few sunny days to work at Closed Loop Park, things have been getting done and trees/plants are blooming!

In March, the interns came out to CLP for a pruning class presented by Frank Anderson. Some of us veteran MG's also enjoyed the class—a person can always use a refresher on pruning! We were really excited that the interns might do some pruning at the garden because it really needed it. Because the intern class was so large, they broke up the pruning class into two sessions. Each session ended up being only an hour and a half for the lecture and questions which didn't leave any time for pruning. However, everyone is welcome to come out and practice pruning on Friday and Saturday mornings!!

Something new at CLP this year is a

vegetable/herb garden. Jan Norris is heading up a group for this garden. They have prepared the bed and have ordered carrots, lettuces, spinach, chard, beets, onions, peas and beans. Jan also has a couple of squash seeds, broccoli and cauliflower and some herbs that she started in her greenhouse. If you would like to come out and help, please do. We are planning to either give the produce to the Food Bank or choose a family that could use it. The vegetable/herb garden is located on the berm above the gazebo.

Another something new at CLP this year is a power wagon. It isn't out at the garden yet because there is not electrical power to any of the sheds (the wagon is battery powered and needs to be plugged in to recharge). The County (our partner at CLP) graciously offered to provide power to the greenhouse, and Bob Findlay (Bob

the Builder at Dirt Works) also



graciously, drew up plans for a small shed to house the power wagon. We will then get power to the new shed from the greenhouse. The power and shed need to be done before we can bring the power wagon out to CLP.

Great Plant Picks' perennial committee has asked to trial Dianthus (Pinks) at CLP. They would like us to plant it on the slope in the rockery. The plants need to be collected from growers first and may be ready for planting this summer.

Please come out to Closed Loop Park and join in on the fun work on Friday and Saturday mornings 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Closed Loop Steering Committee



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

The Common Sense Gardener

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APRIL 2009

Earth Day Quiz Answers

1. Recycling one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt bulb for _____ hours.

4 hours

2. Americans throw out enough aluminum every _____ months to rebuild our entire fleet of commercial airplanes in the United States.

3 months

3. How many trees are used each year to make paper for a family of five?

25 trees

4. Plastic soda bottles can be recycled to make clothing. How many soda bottles would it take to make a suit?

26 soda bottles

5. How many cans would you have to recycle to produce enough electricity to watch TV for 3 hours?

1 can

6. What is the largest part of household waste?

Paper

7. Recycling a six-pack of aluminum cans saves the same amount of energy needed to drive a car _____ miles.

5 miles

