

Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print



Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners

May 2002

Hi everyone:

I'm so glad to be back in the saddle again, helping the home gardeners with their gardening questions and interacting with you Master Gardeners. So you are going to have to put up with me for a little while longer.

Say! I just had my very first Rhubarb pie of the season (actually it was a Bluebarb pie). Does this mean that Spring is really here?

Please read the article about the up-coming plant sale, which takes place on **May 11**, and the *plant sale set-up on May 10*. We hope to see you all there.

Included in this month's newsletter is a reply form that indicates your desire to remain an active Master Gardener and continue receiving the newsletter. The June newsletter will contain an updated combined roster of the new class and the veterans so, please send in your reply slips promptly. This notice is just to alert you to the importance of the June newsletter.

I hope to plant some seeds in my garden soon. That is if the soil warms up, lets hope for some good gardening weather!

Al McHenry

Master Gardener Bus Trips

We have two trips planned for you. You may sign up at the May meeting.

The first is to the VanDusen Flower Show in Vancouver, B.C. on June 7. It is similar to the Flower and Garden show in Seattle, except that it is outdoors, and with this admission you will be free to stroll the 55 acre VanDusen Garden with over 7500 kinds of plants. We will leave by bus from the Ferndale Park and Ride on Axton Rd (across from Mc Donald's) at 8:30 AM and arrive back by 5:30. You must have a passport or birth certificate and photo ID (like a driver's license) . You may take a sack lunch (no apples), or buy one at one of the many food booths. For convenience, you may want to have some Canadian Money. We will try to have an inspector so we can bring plants back. Dress for the weather, we will be outside all day. The cost will be \$12 for members and \$17 for guests. (Trainees are members.)

The 2nd is to Heronswood and Bloedel Reserve on June 26. Heronswood is a display garden and nursery started by Dan Hinkley in Kingston , WA. There are so many examples of newly introduced plant material from around the world. It is great to see them in a landscape. The nursery has many exotic offerings. If you want to shop, I would suggest that you send for a catalog at Heronswood .com and be prepared with a list. It is an overwhelming experience if you are not prepared.

Bloedel Reserve is the original home of the Bloedel family. There are 150 acres, of which 84 are second-growth forest. There are over 300 kinds of trees. There is a moss garden, reflection pool, formal gardens, Japanese garden, and extensive woodland gardens. Your senses will be overstimulated by the end of the day. Our schedule goes like this. We must go early to catch the ferry, so we will leave REI parking lot at 6:15AM and be at Heronswood at 9AM for a 1 hour tour. We'll have from 10 until 12 to shop or explore. We'll be picked up at 12:15 by the bus to go to Bloedel Reserve. Bring a sack lunch to eat on the bus. We can't eat at Heronswood or Bloedel, and the time schedule doesn't allow time for a picnic. So, we will eat on the way. At 1PM we will have a 2 hour walking tour of the Reserve with an emphasis on the history and plant ID. From there we will catch the 3:45 ferry and return home by 5:30-5:45. **DRESS FOR THE WEATHER.** Cost is \$27 for members and \$37 for guests. You may register for these trips at the May meeting.



INSIDE:

Tis the Season	2
MG Foundation	3
Plant of the Month	4
Garden Friends & Foes	5
Weed of the Month	6
General Information	7
Dates to Remember	Back Page

Newsletter Deadline:

Third Wednesday of every month.

Tis the Season

By Faye Agner with
John VanMiert

After the predictable April showers, we are now seeing the beautiful flowers that May brings the Pacific Northwest gardens. Highlight of the month will be the flowering Rhododendron and Azaleas and the ornamental trees, such as Laburnum, Hawthorns, Mountain Ash and Pacific Dogwood.

The spring bulbs we have been enjoying will soon be finished flowering. Cut off the dead flowers, but don't cut the dying leaves of the bulbs, they are needed to collect energy to be stored in the bulbs for next year. Bulb catalogs for next spring's flowers are beginning to come in the mail. You might want to look over your bulbs and note any areas that need to be upgraded, and mark them for new bulbs. Plant your annuals between the bulbs, and they can hide the dead leaves. You might plant a patriotic garden in the colors of the flag. Petunias, asters, and sweet peas are some suggestions.

Prune early flowering deciduous shrubs. They need this treatment as soon as they have finished blooming. A good rule is to thin out one third of the oldest canes at ground level. Then, cut back one third of the remaining branches by one third of their length. This applies to forsythia, spirea and weigelia, as well as to the later blooming mock oranges and deutzia.

Dahlias, cannas, geraniums and begonias can all be planted by now. If you have peonies, phlox, or other clumping perennials that tend to flop over when they bloom, here is one method to keep them standing tall all summer long. When tender shoots appear in the spring, carefully stake out a rectangle or square of chicken wire suspended above them on four or more small wooden posts stuck in the soil. Then the plants will grow up and through the grid.

Conifers may need a little judicious pruning to keep them in shape. Rhododendrons and azalea pruning should be confined to pinching off the old flower heads when they have finished their blooming and removing occasionally disfigured branches. Pines can be kept compact by snuffing out the candles or pinching back the new shoots.

Do you have trouble with holly leafminer? The leafminer emerges this month. If you are inclined to use an insecticide to control this pesky leafminer, the month of May is the **only time** to try to get them. Read the label before you buy or use insecticide. To be an approved insecticide the name of the problem, in this case "Leafminer", must be on the label!

Brown Rot can be a problem with our moist springs, particularly on the flowering form of cherry and plum trees. Fruit and flowering trees should be sprayed at bloom time (pre-pink and petal fall) with a registered fungicide for control. The infected blossoms look "blighted", almost as if they were frosted. The fungus disease infects the twigs entering through the flowers, eventually girdling and killing the branches. Cutting out the infected twigs is the first choice to control it. There are approved fungicides available.

Due to our mild winter, slugs may be arriving in great numbers this spring. The baby slugs are very small and difficult to see. They may be small, but their appetite isn't, and they can do a great deal of damage to many flowers and plants. Slug bait breaks down rapidly in rainy weather. You can make your own slug trap and save the money of buying one. Place your slug bait in a container with two holes on the sides. You have the advantage of protecting the bait from spoilage by rainwater. The slugs will find their way into the container. Remove the container with the slugs and just dispose of it in the garbage bin. It's smart to always keep some slug traps around your annuals and certain other plants that are favored by these pesky, sometimes very tiny slugs.

The lawn might need a light application of fertilizer by the end of May. This should be more needed by the lawns which didn't get fertilized in the late fall. Most lawns are over-fertilized, resulting in the wasting of fertilizer and money by rain and watering.

Apply a granular, complete fertilizer to the roses to encourage flowers. Check for aphids and mildew.

Now is about the end of the home heating season, and your houseplants would enjoy a bath. Placing the plants in your sink or bathtub, depending upon their size can do this. Let them dry completely before exposing them to sunlight. Yes, you can give your African Violets a bath, just be sure they are dry before returning them to their customary spot in the house.

The spring garden was planned to look at. The summer garden should be planned as an extension of your living area. Use some artifacts, such as a bird-bath, a fountain with running water, little statues, or other pieces of homemade artifacts. From early June onward, herbaceous plants can help to create such an intimate atmosphere. Put these plants to advantageous use in controlled planting areas such as on patios, in tubs, boxes or other containers, as well as in more natural arrangements in perennial beds and borders.

Continued on page 7



President's Message

Spring is here! I have convinced myself that if I say it often enough, it will happen! But...by the time you get this newsletter, Spring will really be here!!



Pat Nelson,
MGF President

Today was the mock clinic for the trainees. Veterans and staff supplied some plant problems for them to solve, and they did a great job! It made me want to get back to the office clinic again and experience the challenges of investigation!

Our April meeting was full of welcomes, thank-yous and reminders. It was attended by a few more new trainees. It looks like we have got a very ambitious group to add to our roster—keep on coming!

Remember May 11—THE PLANT SALE!!! Come and help out! If you come Friday to set up, you get a fantastic lunch!! And, obviously, Saturday—lots to do and it's fun!! As long as we are talking about the plant sale—We have two new coordinators who are helping this year in training to take over for next year!!! Kudos to Diane Rapoza and Becky Falacy!!! Also, while on the subject of the SALE, we have decided to put 10% of our net income from the sale into a horticultural scholarship fund. Details are yet to be worked out.

Now, back to kudos—Kathy Mitchell, a new enthusiastic trainee, has volunteered to be our communication coordinator—so, if you have something that you want publicized, call Kathy at 360/766-8914 or 360/766-7914. Thanks Kathy

Chris Hurst announced that we have been invited to tour Donna Oehler's garden on Lake Whatcom on May 15. It's at 1539 Lakewood Lane at 7pm—parking is limited. Good job Chris—I hear that it is a beautiful garden.

Karen Gilliam has two great trips coming up—VanDusen Flower Show on June 7, and Heronswood and Bloedel Reserve on June 26. See Karen's article for further information.

It is always fun to say thank-you for jobs well done, but it was especially fun saying thank-you to Merrilee Kullman with an autographed book signed by Dan Hinkley!!—she loved it!!

Remember—our May Board Meeting is at 10:30 am on May 3. If you have anything to ask or contribute—join us!

Our May Foundation meeting is 7 pm on May 9, with Tom Burton from Burton's Bamboo to speak on—Bamboo! See you all then!

Plant Sale

Plant Sale - May 11; Plant Sale set-up - May 10

Here is your last notice before that festive fundraiser, our annual Plant Sale. If you have already signed up — thank you. If you have not - please just show up. The Greenhouse Gang will start moving plants from Penny's greenhouse the week before the Sale. Dick Steele is looking for folks with pick-ups to help with this. Then, promptly at **9:00 am on Friday - May 10**, we will begin the set-up for the Sale. This includes moving the plants and pricing them. *Lunch will be provided.* If you have personal plants to contribute - please have these labeled with white labels and bring them **NO LATER** than Friday morning - Thank you.

Saturday - the morning of the Sale, please arrive **on time at 8:00 a.m.** so everyone will be in place when we open. Please bring *baked goods, paper bags or boxes, calculators, carts or wheelbarrows, your name tag and raingear or sunglasses (it can go either way!)*. Typical work shifts on Saturday are 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, OR 12 noon to 4:00 pm, OR all day. The WWU Pep Band will be there that morning to lighten our step and entertain our visitors.

I'd like to thank Diane Rapoza and Becky Falacy for their help organizing the Sale, as well as all you other volunteers who give so generously of your time. See you May 10 and 11.

Christine Michaelis 360/734-1273

Plant of the Month By Cheryll Greenwood Kinsley

Dwarf Fothergilla

Fothergilla gardenii

Family: Hamamelidaceae
(Witch hazel family)

Genus: *Fothergilla*

Species: *gardenii*

Fothergilla. Isn't that an interesting name? The deciduous shrub it's attached to is just as interesting. It will appeal particularly to gardeners who are fond of witch hazels. The family resemblance is strong in the only two members of this genus, *F. major* and *F. gardenii*, both native to the southeastern part of the United States. Don't let their geographical origins mislead you, however. The Fothergillas are perfectly hardy here in the Pacific Northwest, and admirably suited to the climate and growing conditions in our region.

F. major, as its name indicates, is the larger of the two, reaching ten feet in both height and width.

F. gardenii grows slowly to a maximum of three feet, a size well suited to the home landscape. It is upright when young and slowly matures into a globular shape. Not unlike the human I see in my mirror, come to think of it....



Both species offer fragrant white flowers that emerge in late April and early May, before the leaves open. The flowers are small and green, nestled at the ends of the branches. The real show comes from their filament-like stamens, as much as two inches long, tipped with yellow anthers and clustered in "bottle-brushes" that can be an inch or more wide. The three-inch leaves that follow are bronze as they unfurl, opening finally in hues of deep green that offer a comforting presence in the summer garden. In the fall, both species offer an amazingly wide spectrum of colors, with shades of green, yellow, orange, pink, violet,

and scarlet on the same plant simultaneously, often with several colors on the same leaf. Fall foliage colors are most showy when the plant is in full sun, although they also appear when it is shaded. The fall color is said to be particularly vibrant in *F. major*, and a smaller cultivar, 'Mt. Airy', is available. It can tend to brushiness, however, and it suckers more freely than the naturally smaller *F. gardenii*. To add to the confusion, 'Mount Airy' is sometimes labeled as a cultivar of *F. gardenii* and appears to be the most widely available of all the Fothergillas at retail centers. The most common cultivar of *F. gardenii* is 'Blue Mist', which offers very pleasing blue-green leaves, but only at the expense of some fall color. The species form of *F. gardenii* offers the best combination of attributes, and is well worth seeking out.

All Fothergillas do best in rich, consistently moist, slightly acid soils, in either sun or shade. If placed in a shady location, they will even adapt to dry soil that is neutral or even slightly alkaline. They coexist nicely with rhododendrons and azaleas, *kalmia*, *leucothoe*, and *pieris*, in appearance as well as cultural requirements. And they are very easy to care for. Like most members of the witch hazel family, they seem to be immune to most pests and diseases. Pruning is neither required nor recommended, lest the grace of the Fothergillas' natural shape be interfered with. They are attractive enough to use as a single specimen or combined in a free-form hedge. They are easy to look at even in winter, when their twiggy branches show gray-to-tan, making them good candidates for prominent placement, even right by the front door. This year-round interest as well as a compact growth habit, lovely flowers, and ease of care are the attributes that place *F. gardenii* at the top of the class and make it a candidate for "most well behaved" in the small-shrub department.

And that interesting name? The genus honors the English physician John Fothergill, who aside from his affinity for plants contributed much to the body of medical knowledge in the 18th century. The species *gardenii* is named for Dr. Alexander Garden, a Scots physician and botanist who lived in South Carolina and was instrumental in introducing a great many new-world plants to Europe. The story of why this genus was *not* named for him, and why another eventually was, would require another column's worth of space. It is a tale that features Linnaeus and his particular opinions about which plants were most important and whose contributions, most worthy. The genus that immortalizes Dr. Garden is native to the tropics rather than to his beloved but adopted home. In fact, Dr. Garden didn't even see it until he returned to London shortly before his death. It was the genus *Gardenia* that was displayed at his funeral, not the bottlebrush from the American South that even Mr. Jefferson assumed would be named for the Scotsman from Carolina. Dr. Garden did much to spread the news of the diversity and usefulness of plants from America; and while he certainly admired the *Gardenia*, I feel sure it would give him pleasure to know that his name is associated, albeit in a minor position, with one of the special plants native to this continent, where so much of his botanical work took place.



Garden Friends and Foes By Todd Murray

The Narcissus Bulb Fly / Lesser Narcissus Bulb Fly

Merodon equestris, *Eumerus strigatus* and *E. tuberculatus*

Order: Diptera

Family: Syrphidae

Species: *Merodon equestris*, *Eumerus strigatus* and *E. tuberculatus*

DESCRIPTION AND LIFE HISTORY: After pulling out some disappointing daffodil bulbs the other weekend, I figured that the Narcissus Bulb Fly would be a timely pest of the month for May. Since I've been here, I've noticed that a few of these gooey, mushy, worm-ridden, stinky bulb samples come into the MG clinic.

This is one of the few pestiferous syrphid flies; most flies in this family are good guys that munch on aphids. As an adult, the Narcissus bulb fly is a pretty neat looking fly. The adult Narcissus bulb flies, *Merodon* spp., are bumblebee mimics. These large (over ½") fuzzy flies are striped with black and yellow/orange to trick you into thinking that it has a painful stinger. I hand collected one of these last year, and the fly even tried fruitlessly to sting me by tapping its butt against my hand. Even having a trained eye and being 99% sure that I caught a fly, not a bee, this stinging action made me think twice for fear I just grabbed a bumblebee. The lesser bulb flies, *Eumerus* spp., are smaller flies (~1/4") that are colored dark blue with metallic/bronze iridescence.

Both the Narcissus and lesser bulb flies emerge around April and May. The Narcissus bulb fly has one generation per year while the lesser bulb fly can have two generations per year depending on climate. Adult flies seek out flowers and foliage of the respective host plants. Flies lay eggs near or on the foliage of the plant close to the soil line. Eggs hatch and larvae develop inside the bulb. These larvae are bullet shaped maggots that speed up the decay process and turn the bulb into soup. After feeding, larvae leave the bulb to pupate in the soil.

DAMAGE: The Narcissus bulb fly attacks amaryllis, daffodil, *Galtonia*, *Flanthus*, hyacinth, iris, lilies, *Leucofum*, *Narcissus*, *Scilla*, tulips, and *Vallota*. The Narcissus bulb fly is large and usually attacks a bulb as a single or a few individual maggots. The primary area of attack is in the basal plate. Then the larvae will move up into the bulb to feed. Bulbs infested with this fly will rot over the next winter. If they are not completely killed, the following spring will produce very weak, spindly foliage and no flower (like mine did this year).

The lesser bulb fly can also attack the same types of bulbs in addition to onion, shallots, garlic, parsnips, potato tubers, cabbage roots, *Calla elliotiana*, *Eurycies*, *Galtonia*, *Gladiolus*, *Scilla* and *Sprekelia formosissima*. Larvae are much smaller and more numerous than the Narcissus bulb fly; 10-40 lesser bulb flies can infest a single bulb. Infestations of the lesser bulb fly cause the bulb to decompose rapidly, resulting in a mushy mess. The lesser bulb fly is less likely to attack healthy bulbs. These flies like to have some decay happening in the bulb prior to infestation. Both bulb flies are able to lay many eggs (over 100), so just having one in your neighborhood could spell "mush" for your bulbs.

MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT: There are no pesticide recommendations available for these bulb flies. But that's O.K.; we have many alternatives that we can use to avoid mushy bulbs. You should be thinking about trying these practices if you have a problem with bulb flies.

- In May, on sunny days look for large bumblebee-like flies hovering around your flowers. Bumblebees will have two pairs of wings while bulb flies will have one. Grab your handy insect net (you all have one, right???) and catch the critters before they can do too much egg laying. This sounds tedious, but is very effective for protecting small plantings of susceptible bulbs. Remember, each female fly can lay up to 100 eggs! Plus, if it is a nice sunny day, you should be outside admiring and

tending your garden anyway.

- Adult flies use visual cues and smell to locate your delicious bulbs. After you have enjoyed your flowers, cover the bulb bed with a floating row cover, like Remay*. Another recommendation given suggests that you mow down the vegetative portions of your plant and gently cover the tops with soil. Female flies will be unable to locate the bulb. Once no new foliage is sprouting, remove

* Mention of a product name, in text, does not constitute an endorsement by the USDA or WSU: or does not imply approval to the exclusion of other suitable products.

Weed of the Month By Laurel Shiner

Poison Hemlock

Conium maculatum

THREAT: Poison hemlock, a member of the parsnip (or carrot) family, was introduced as an ornamental plant into the U.S. from Europe. The plant has become an invasive weed throughout most of North America and Australia and parts of South America and New Zealand. It is adapted to a wide range of climates and can be found in disturbed sites, pastures, along roadsides and waterways. Poison hemlock spreads solely by seed, which can be moved by vehicles, people, animals, agricultural products and water. All parts of this plant are poisonous, causing fatalities in livestock and humans. It is believed this was the plant which was given to Socrates to drink, causing his death. Poisoning occurs in humans most often as a result of mistaken identity. The seeds are sometimes collected, being mistaken for anise. Poison hemlock is also sometimes mistaken for wild parsnip, wild carrot or parsley. Children are sometimes poisoned by using the stems for peashooters or whistles. Poison hemlock can be distinguished from similar plants by its smooth, blotchy purple, and absolutely hairless stem. Plants in the carrot family should not be collected for food use unless the collector is absolutely sure of the identification, as there are other poisonous members of this family that can also be mistaken for edible plants. Children should be taught to avoid these plants.



DESCRIPTION: Poison hemlock is an erect biennial, growing up to 8 feet high, commonly 4-6 feet high. It has a long, white, fleshy taproot that is sometimes branched. The stems are branched, smooth, hairless, and hollow with purple spots and blotches near the base. It has fern-like leaves, very similar to carrot leaves. The flowers are numerous, white, and grow in umbrella shaped clusters. After producing seed, the plant usually dies.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Poison hemlock can be controlled using mechanical, chemical and biological controls. Repeat cultivation can be used to control seedlings. Hand pulling is effective and should be done before the plant is in flower. Mowing can delay flowering but the plant often flowers at a shorter height, so mowing must be continued throughout the season. A species of moth, *Agonopterix alstromeriana*, feeds on Poison hemlock and has been unintentionally introduced into the U.S. from Europe. It is now established in both the Pacific Northwest and New England. The larvae of this species are capable of complete defoliation of Poison hemlock plants. Although effective on a site-by-site basis, these insects are unpredictable in occurrence and do not seem to be effective on a regional scale. Some herbicides are quite effective for controlling Poison hemlock. Contact the Weed Control Board for site-specific chemical recommendations.

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board • 901 W. Smith Road Bellingham, WA 98226 • (360) 354-3990
<http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pubwks/noxious/noxious.htm>

Garden Friends & Foes

Continued from page 5

and store the bulb through the off-season. If you do this, I do not know the impacts this will have on next year's flower. That vegetation produces the bulb's energy reserve that is needed for next year's growth. Regardless, the earlier you can pull your bulbs out, the better chance that you will avoid bulb flies.

- Bulb flies are less active in open, windy areas. Plant your beds in exposed windy places, if your landscape provides this type of climate.
- Avoid any damage to the bulbs when handling and planting. The lesser bulb fly prefers damaged goods to healthy bulbs. Establishment of maggots is much easier if there are already rot producing organisms in the bulb.
- Plant your bulbs deep, if they can tolerate it. Bulbs planted 25cm (or about 10") deep in the soil will evade attack by adult flies. I am unaware if planting this deep is practical.
- When the time comes to pull up the bulbs, check the basal plate of each bulb. When you purchase new bulbs, check the plate for any signs of squishiness and rot. If you find some rot there, do not plant them and discard the rotten bulbs.
- Infested or suspicious bulbs can be cleaned of maggots by soaking bulbs in hot water (43-44°C) for at least 40 minutes. Care must be taken to not exceed this temperature, because you will damage the bulb. This is a great way to kill other pests of bulbs, too.
- Finally, if the problem persists, the sure-fire way to avoid bulb flies is to buy your flowers at the store like all the non-gardeners and black-thumb'ers out there. If you don't plant it, they won't come. This option is the one that I'm going to take now.

Library Notes

Deerproofing Your Yard & Garden

DEERPROOFING YOUR YARD & GARDEN, by Rhonda Hart is a new addition to the MGF Library, located in the MG Office. Those cute critters that eat our prized flowers and veggies are analyzed in a thorough way, including a chapter on understanding deer behavior. Extensive lists of plants deer prefer, and those they don't, are followed by a myriad of ways to protect our gardens. Sample "deerproof" gardens for various locations are pictured.

This up-to-date book includes many commercial products, with email information on where to order, and practical deterrent methods, with pros and cons for each. This title should be of assistance to many gardeners and is in the Reference Section, for use in the Master Gardener Office.

By Ginny Hadd,
Library Committee

Hovander Happenings Getting Started in 2002

Work at the demonstration garden projects at Hovander Park got under way April 10. Most of the work thus far has been cleanup and double-digging garden beds. We're hoping to have many interesting projects under way soon.

The main objective of the demonstration garden is to provide the public with information and ideas on home gardening.

Work parties will be Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9 till noon. We will follow this schedule until late October. It's always nice to have veteran Master Gardeners, too! Come out and get to know the class of 2002!

By David
Simonsen

Tis the Season

Continued from page 2

Containers can be used to jazz up dull areas. Anything that can hold soil can be used for a container. It needs watertight sides and a stable base so the wind does not knock it over. Unless it is to be used as a water garden, it must have drainage at the bottom. To make an all-purpose soil mix for an outdoor container, combine equal parts of topsoil, peat moss and perlite. Cover the drain hole with a coffee filter to avoid the soil mix from escaping, and then fill the container to within 2 inches of the top.

Following label directions, sprinkle the surface with a slow-release fertilizer. Forget conventional spacing recommendations, and cram plants together. Start from the middle and work outward. Tamp down firmly, then water thoroughly.

For those interested, a bonsai workshop is starting up for Whatcom County. The meetings will be held at Bakerview Nursery on the fourth Monday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. If you have questions, give me a call at 360/371-3177. See you there.

We congratulate, and we welcome, all the enthusiastic new Master Gardeners of the WSU/Whatcom County Master Gardener class of 2002. We will be in good shape again this coming season by gaining such dedicated people.



Weeder's Digest is the monthly newsletter for the Whatcom County Master Gardener Program. Guest articles are encouraged. Please submit typewritten articles by the third Wednesday of each month to Karri at the Master Gardener Office. Articles can also be submitted by e-mail to: karrimac@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu. Editor uses MS Word for Windows and PageMaker 6.5. Any articles prepared on other programs or platforms should be saved as Text Files or Rich Text Files. Editor reserves the right to edit for space considerations, grammar, spelling and syntax.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
WHATCOM COUNTY

Master Gardener Office:
Courthouse Annex 1000 N. Forest St.
Bellingham, WA 98225 360/676-6736


Craig MacConnell
Horticulture Agent

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
P.O. Box 646230

PRSR STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT No. G268

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300



Dates to Remember:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---|
| May 3 | 10:30 a.m. | Monthly Foundation Board Meeting
Extension Office |
| May 9 | 7 to 9:30 p.m. | Monthly Foundation Meeting
Extension Office |
| May 10 & 11 | 8/9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Plant Sale & Plant Sale Set-up
See article for more information |
| Wednesdays | 8 to 9 a.m. | Master Gardener breakfasts
Babe's in Ferndale |
| Wed. & Sat. | 9 a.m. to Noon..... | Hovander Work Parties
Hovander Demonstration Garden |
| Wed. & Sat. | 9 a.m. to Noon..... | Greenhouse work parties
Penny Nordby's |