

# Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print



Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners

June 2003

What a day we had for the Plant Sale! It was the nicest Spring day that I can remember and the Plant Sale was a huge success. We want to thank Diane Rapoza, her assistants, and all the volunteers that made it a big success. Thanks to all the gardeners who donated plants so we would have something to sell. It all added up to a great day.

I am writing this a day before our annual walk around botany trip. We are hoping for good weather and a good turn-out.

Talking about the new class- the coordinators for the various up-coming events are actively enlisting volunteers, so please help them out. Their job is not easy so anything you can do will be appreciated.

**2003 Volunteer Coordinators:**

- Office Clinic - Jill Cotton, 360/766-7006 or Kolla Rodeman, 360/398-2620*
- Farmers Market - Margie Katz, 360/738-6817 or Christine Smith, 360/201-5184*
- 4-H Activities - Judy Calhoun, 360/734-6876*
- Bellingham Public Library - Pat Edwards, 360/527-9587*
- Hovander Garden - Mary-Pat Mclane, 360/380-3904*
- Northwest Washington Fair - Nicole Loberg, 360/739-3850*
- E-mail Project - Terilee Henderson, 360/966-4828*

Lets hope the soil warms up soon so some of my seeds will germinate. Happy Gardening!

~ Al McHenry

## Let's Go Touring

Put on your walking shoes and prepare to tour some of your fellow master gardener's gardens in lieu of our regular monthly, meetings now through September. Each month we will visit two to three gardens and then end with a VERY short meeting with the usual goodies and snacks.

You've no doubt heard of a room with a view, a million dollar view, and a view to die for? Well, the garden where we will have our June tour and meeting has all those and more. It is at the home of our very own Jill Cotton. It is a most lovely home with a back patio facing the west and overlooking Padilla Bay and beyond. Below is a rather steep, terraced yard with stone walls and stairs (please wear appropriate footwear), a pond with a fish guarding 'gater, and a very cute greenhouse/garden work shed that Jill's husband made for her. The large, 20 acre property has a great variety of plant material - Dan Hinkely would be proud.

Up the hill from Jill is the garden of Julie and John Hubner with equally exciting vistas. Julie, a Skagit County Master Gardener designed that county's fabulous Discovery Garden. She and John have graciously offered to allow us a romp through their great garden surrounded by mature native firs. Did you know that you can actually grow wetland plants very high up on high hills?

These are two fabulous gardens you definitely don't want to miss out on. Those who want to car pool from Bellingham can meet at the Extension Office parking lot and leave there by 6 p.m. Everyone needs to meet at the entrance gate to Jill's by 6:30 p.m.. Following are the driving directions:

- Take I-5 exit 250 and drive 1.3 miles toward Fairhaven to the stoplight at 12<sup>th</sup> Street (also known as Highway 11)
- Turn left at the light onto Chuckanut Drive and go 8.6 miles; along the way you will pass Larabee State Park (on the right). You will see a black gate on the left; turn left and proceed through the gate and park in the graveled area straight ahead. Please park at the bottom – do not drive up the hill. We will “shuttle” or carpool to the meeting and garden tour.



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## Newsletter Deadline:

Third Wednesday of every month.

# Tis the Season



By Faye Agner

Remember the old saying, "April showers bring May flowers for June brides"? This year they also brought cold night temperatures, and for the most part, beautiful days. A few late frosts have slowed the growth of many young, tender plants and have been a bit discouraging to those of us who viewed the sunny days as a spur toward get things going in the garden.

Tomato plants in particular are sensitive to cold. The traditional date to set out tomato plants is Mother's Day. The soil temperature needs to be about 60 degrees for the tomatoes to thrive. Mine are still in the garage in front of an open window waiting for the wind to take a vacation so I can plant them in the garden. The cold nights have made for a late start of many plants.

Most of the rhododendrons will finish their blooming this month; it is best if you can find time or a small person's help to pick the spent blooms. It is not necessary to remove these dead blooms, but you will get more blooms next year if you do. When removing spent blooms you must take care as the new buds for next seasons flowers are directly under the dead flowers. This is also called 'dead heading'.

Weed control is a never-ending chore. Once a weed has sprouted, the sooner you catch it, the easier it will be to remove. Tender, young seedlings can be removed quickly and efficiently with simple hoeing. It'll slice them off just below the soil's surface so they can't regrow. Hoeing at a shallow angle won't bring many more seeds to the surface, ready to sprout. Keep the hoe almost parallel to the soil to avoid exposing more weed seeds.

Many spring-flowering shrubs and perennials should be pruned soon after the flowering is finished. Take care to keep the natural shape of the shrub. Most coniferous and small-leaf hedges may be sheared, but laurel, holly and other large-leaf hedges should be pruned instead of shearing, each branch being cut back as necessary without slicing through individual leaves. Flowering trees should be pruned sparingly; keep in mind, they need a lot less pruning than fruit bearing trees. Summer pruning of fruit trees should not be necessary except to take out the suckers that are sprouting up from the base of the tree.

Most everything needs fertilizer in the Northwest gardens by the end of June or early July. Lawns need their early summer-application of nitrogen to carry these through the usual dry months ahead. If you didn't fertilize your rhododendrons this spring, then now is the last chance for this year. Remember rhododendrons and azaleas and most all other plants should not be fertilized after July 15. Fertilizer promotes new growth in the fall, which will not be hardy enough for our winters.

As the weather warms and the nights are no longer in the 40s, but in the 60s, many of your houseplants may be moved out of doors. They also need fertilization. A water-soluble houseplant fertilizer full strength is called for to meet the plants summer needs.

It is not too soon to begin planning your fall and winter garden. Cauliflower and other members of the cabbage family can be planted now. Winter endive should be seeded after passing the longest daylight of the year (June 22, on or about). Leeks also fall into this category.

This year we need to be especially careful about standing water with the West Nile Virus showing it's ugly self. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as a cup of standing water. Make sure you change the water in your birdbath frequently to keep it fresh. If you have an outdoor pond, goldfish will eat the mosquitoes larva if you can keep the raccoons and birds from taking the fish.

June is also the month for Spit bugs. They don't seem to cause any particular damage and are easily controlled with a stream of water from your garden hose.

You can still plant bush beans as well as root crops and every kind of herb you may need for your cooking. Early this month, plant cannas, dahlia, gladiolus, montbretia, tigridia and tuberous begonia for late summer color.

After your early blooming perennials finish flowering, give them a hair cut by removing any spent blooms. This will help revive the plant and do away with hiding spots for slugs some diseases.

One way you might consider piqueing the interest of your youngsters would be to give them a cucumber plant To make it interesting for them, try growing a cucumber fruit, not plant, in a 1- or 2-liter plastic soda bottle. Poke several ventilation holes in it. When the tiny cucumbers are just starting to develop, gently insert them through the opening of the bottle, leaving them attached to the vine. Shade the bottle with some cucumber leaves so the small cukes won't cook in the sun. You might have to try this with several cucumbers before you get one to grow to full size, but the effect is like the ship in a bottle: How did that big cuke get through that tiny hole?

### Who am I?

There are over 160 species of me. I originated in China, Japan and Europe. I figure heavily in the art of some of the Asian countries. I am widely seen in local gardens and am heavily used for floral arrangements. I grow into clumps and need to be separated every few years. I come in several sizes and some of my blooms are formed almost as a ball, others have a daisy appearance. My petals are used in cooking, especially the recipe named for me.

Last month was the peony.

## Garden Tour in Sequim

Olympic Peninsula Master Gardeners will be holding a garden tour on June 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the tour call Gail Nelson, Clallam County Master Gardeners, 360/681-7727.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Dan Coyne is looking for someone to weed the Compost Experiment Garden. If you are interested in helping out please call him at the Extension Office, 360/676-6736.



## President's Message

May is on its way out—what a month! Lots of hard work—but was it not worth it? The plant sale— isn't it great when you can work hard, learn lots and still have fun!! And besides, make money—more than ever before! Dianne Rapoza, Becky Falacy, and Teri Booth were awesome! They came up with some good new ideas that really worked, and we had wonderful member participation! A big plus was the great article that the Herald put on their garden page.

Then, to add further charm to May—On the 15th, we went to Snohomish and thoroughly enjoyed Rhody Ridge, Iris Growers and Flowerworld—a great trip. On May 20 we had the pleasure of visiting one of our local gardens, 10 acres of delight belonging to Terry and Dave Maczoua. Thanks!

Cheryll Greenwood Kinsley and I met with Sarah Wallace, from the Herald, to ask if Master Gardener articles could be included on the garden page. She was very encouraging and suggested the possibility of a question and answer article and maybe using some Weeder's Digest articles when needed.

But, now on to June! Something to look forward to—no office Foundation meetings. We will have tours of members' gardens with a short meeting tucked in. The June Board meeting will be Thursday, June 5, at 10 a.m.—do come! And, on June 12, we will begin our summer member garden tours at Jill Cotton's garden. See Linda's article for further info

Karen Gilliam and I have been asked, by the Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department, to teach classes at Big Rock Garden. Karen will be teaching her 'infamous' hyper-tufa on July 13, and I will show how to make copper spiral and dragon fly plant stakes on June 28. Check the Summer Leisure Guide, or call 360/676-6985 to register.

Karen will be teaching cement leaf making on June 9 and stepping stone carving on June 30. Check her article for further information.

Reminder—Those who are signed up to go to BC with us—We will be leaving the Ferndale Park and Ride at 8 a.m. on June 26.

## Classes in June

~Karen Gilliam

CLASSES IN JUNE –Leaf casting, carved cement plaques, and perennials

If you enjoy cement garden art, join me and we'll make some together for your garden. These classes will be held at my home at 1155 Clarkson Lane, Ferndale (off NW Road). There will be a materials fee of \$7 for each one.

Monday, June 9 at 9:30 a.m. we will do a leaf casting. You'll take home a cement replica of a leaf or two. It is garden art or a shallow bird bath. The easiest leaves to work with are hostas. If possible, bring a couple of large leaves, and a board that they can be placed on and left to dry (About 18" square) and a pair of rubber gloves. I will provide the cement mixture, instructions and leaves if you don't have any. After sculpting the leaves, you may leave them here to cure or take them home to finish them. We'll meet Wednesday afternoon, June 13, (after Hovander work party) to finish and paint them, for those who can.

Monday, June 30 we will carve some cement stepping stones or plaques. Kathy Mitchell will assist. This will take most of the day because the cement has to set in the forms for 3 hrs. before we carve it. We will compress a circle of concrete, let it cure, carefully remove the form and start the carving process. Again, if you have an 18" square of plywood for a work surface, bring it. The project must remain on the board for a couple of days. Try to visualize a form that you may want to carve, starting with a circle. For a stepping stone, it should not be too delicate. If it is to be a plaque, then there are fewer limitations. We will have some ideas if you need help. You do need to register for this class so that we have enough forms for everyone. We may need to limit enrollment. The fee for materials is \$7. I will have the cement, forms and some carving tools. You can use old knives, or spoons, saws, or other stiff objects for the carving. Bring a tool to carve with if you can.

To fill the time between the pouring and carving, we will have a perennial tour of the yard. I will have some handouts of the plants in bloom at this time. This will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 12 Noon. We'll have lunch at noon, bring a sack lunch, and then continue with the carving in the afternoon. You are welcome to come just to the perennial walk-about.

Call to register or ask questions at 360/384-4562 or e-mail at [jkgilliam@yahoo.com](mailto:jkgilliam@yahoo.com)

Hope to see you in class.



Pat Nelson, MGF President

## Hovander Update

~David Siomonson

As we near the end of May, we have 35 veggies growing in the demonstration garden. As we finish planting in early June, we expect to have our quota of 50—can you name that many?

It has been an enjoyable beginning of the gardening season with the enthusiasm from the volunteers, both from the class of 2003 and veterans.

Are we entitled to a mistake or two in our lifetime? I must confess that the giant kohlrabi seed that I pushed off on people this spring is not kohlrabi, but a cross that is a weird type of kale. If you are interested in the embarrassing details as to how this happened—ask me. Actually, this kale cross is still quite a nice vegetable—so just enjoy it!

Plant of the Month ..... By Cheryl Greenwood Kinsley

**Hosta**

Family: Liliaceae (Lily Family)  
Genus: *Hosta*

I've been very busy lately—as I know you all are, too—and even though I want to spend *every minute* in the garden, my schedule barely allows enough time for thrice-weekly, twenty-minute sorties in this year's Horsetail Eradication Campaign (HEC). (As regular readers know, I mount an annual HEC armed only with primitive manual tools, stout resolve, and an arsenal of choice words best muttered under my breath. The HEC varies not at all from year to year: the horsetail keeps growing and I keep trying to interfere with its life cycle. While I'm pleased to report that I seem to be making progress, victory is hardly at hand. The horsetail will certainly stage an offensive during the annual family vacation. This year it may have formed an alliance with the red sorrel. There are signs of activity from that camp.) Every time I pass the beds where the hostas grow, I offer them a smile and a "thank you" for showing up and taking care of themselves so competently. They ask for almost no attention from me as they go about their business of growing and looking fabulous from May to October.



I love hostas. I can't remember when I "discovered" them but it seems they've been in my garden forever. I started off with a Big Blue One. Soon I added a Little Bitty Green One and a Medium Sized One with White on Its Leaves. That was how I referred to them in the days before I knew very much about plant names. I felt redeemed when I read that the European gentleman who "discovered" hostas in Japan at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century named the first one "*the common Hosta with 'plantain like' leaves.*" He named his second hosta "*the other Hosta.*" Both monikers were in Dutch and each required quite a string of words. It would be a few years before Linnaeus got a handle on a consistent system for naming plants. There's still a measure of confusion where hostas are concerned, however. Their family name is reported differently from one reliable source to another, although most prefer Liliaceae over Funkiaceae (yes, there was a Dr. Host and a Dr. Funck). Hostas are still called "funkias" in some regions but the American Hosta Society—a dedicated bunch—rejects that name. "Hosta" it is to be, although you'll find tags marked "plantain lily" and even "day lily" because each of the flowers on those amazing stalks lasts only one day. You can see how the *Hemerocallis* people might have a problem with that.

By any name, hostas are great additions to the Pacific Northwest garden. They thrive here, which is completely counterintuitive. By rights, given where they originated and their growth habit, they should like wet summers (when they're in active growth) and dry winters (when they're completely dormant). Go figure. They prefer shady locations, particularly the varieties with large, heart-shaped leaves. The types with narrower leaves are much more tolerant of sun. Even so, avoid planting them where they'll have direct sunlight all day long. Do put them in soil that is *very well amended* with lots of organic material so that it will retain water, and plan to give your hostas a soaking every week or so during the dry summer months. Their snouts will appear in April, the leaves will unfurl by May, in June you'll have flower stalks, and for the rest of the season you'll enjoy that gorgeous foliage. In early October, the leaves will wither—quite suddenly. When they pull out easily, mark the spot, remove them all, and check "care for hostas" right off your list.

I know what you're all thinking right now, so I'll just get on with it and speak of slugs. They love hostas as much as I do, but *they can be managed*. The key—as with most pests—is vigilance, early and often. Start when you first see those snouts. I put down some medium-grade bark—slugs don't like to crawl over it, which makes them grumpy and less likely to

notice the circle of liquid slug-death that I draw around each plant and replenish every two weeks. Other folks have had success with copper barriers. I don't use those because of their cost. The American Hosta Society offers an interesting solution to that, one I've never encountered before. They suggest using epoxy to glue pennies into a circle and laying it around the hosta. I don't know if there are laws against that. They swear it works.

Other people have reported that deer eat their hostas. The lovely creatures wandering through my yard twice a day—like clockwork—look at my hostas, sniff dismissively, and walk on. I've also read that certain nematodes plague hostas in some areas, but I've never encountered them here. Nor are my hostas prone to any diseases, judging by their vigor and appearance.

I just sit back and watch them grow. It's lovely to have something that deer don't eat and aphids ignore. I take delight in the complete absence of powdery mildew, nibbled leaves, and shriveling stems. The Big Blue One, the Little Bitty Green One, and the Medium Sized One with White on Its Leaves are all still with me. When I can't find a place for their many progeny—I divide my hostas in the fall and watch for self-sown volunteers—my friends are happy to provide them with homes.

Now if only hostas could emit some kind of otherwise harmless chemical that attacked and killed only horsetail and red sorrel...

## Weed of the Month .....By Laurel Shiner

### Garlic Mustard

*Alliaria petiolata*



**THREAT:** Garlic mustard, a plant native to Europe, was probably introduced to North America in the 1800s, for use as a medicinal and food plant. Unlike many problem weeds, garlic mustard is shade tolerant and can successfully invade forest habitats. It usually gains access through disturbed areas, such as stream banks disturbed by flooding, roadsides, trails or campgrounds. Garlic mustard produces large numbers of seeds and is self-pollinating, which allows a single plant to quickly produce enough plants to dominate a site. Seeds are dispersed primarily by humans and other animals and can persist in the soil for at least five years. In forested areas where it has become established, garlic mustard can dominate the ground vegetation.

**DESCRIPTION:** Garlic mustard is a biennial herb, which can grow over three feet tall. The first year plants consist of a rosette of rounded green leaves, which persist over winter. The taproot of this plant often grows horizontally near the soil surface before growing downwards. In the spring of its second year, garlic mustard sends up an unbranched flowering stalk with alternate heart-shaped or triangular leaves. The small white flowers are borne in a cluster at the end of the stem. Like other mustards, the flower has four petals in the form of a cross. When crushed, the leaves and stem of this plant give off a distinctive garlic odor. Garlic mustard prefers moist, shady sites, although it can tolerate full sun and various soil moistures. It does not seem to tolerate highly acidic soils.



**MANAGEMENT OPTIONS:** Several management options are available to control garlic mustard, however, repeated treatments are necessary with all. For small infestations, handpulling is effective, as long as the entire root system is removed. Cutting the stems at ground level just before or during flowering (but before seed set) results in high mortality. Certain herbicides may also be used. For some sites, fall or early spring burning may be effective. All these treatments require follow-up work to remove any surviving plants before they have the opportunity to set seed.

*Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board, 901 W. Smith Rd., Bellingham, WA  
98226, 360/354-3990*

## Coatings Minimize Leaching From Treated Wood

Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) is a commercially applied preservative that is widely used to protect wood from attack by decay fungi and insects. The target concentrations of chromium, copper, and arsenic in CCA-treated wood depend on its intended use. Chromium, copper, and arsenic in CCA-treated wood are bonded to the wood through chemical reactions, but a small percentage of these elements gradually leaches out of the wood over time. People are sometimes concerned about this leaching when CCA-treated wood is used in playground equipment, decks (and raised garden beds –ed.). One way to reduce leaching and alleviate these concerns is by coating the treated wood.

The ability of coatings to reduce leaching from CCA-treated wood was recently verified by researchers at the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL). Researchers purchased 2- by 6-in. southern pine lumber that had been commercially treated with CCA. Four matched 10-in long specimens were cut from each board.

One of the four specimens from each board was left uncoated (control); each of the other three specimens was brushed with either latex primer followed by one coat of outdoor latex paint, oil-based primer followed by one coat of oil-based paint, or two coats of a penetrating oil water-repellent deck stain. Each coating combination was replicated seven times.

Specimens were placed horizontally in individual trays with a wide face of the specimen facing up. The trays were equipped with drains so that water running off each specimen could be collected. Specimens were supported so that they did not contact standing water in the tray.

To simulate the wetting and drying of rainfall episodes, specimens were sprayed with a fine mist of water for 7.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, over a period of 3 weeks. Specimens were exposed to the equivalent of 32 in. of rain. Water running off each specimen was collected and periodically analyzed for preservative components. Average amounts of chromium, copper, and arsenic leached from samples are summarized in the table. All the coatings evaluated were effective, reducing the leaching of arsenic, chromium, and copper by over 99% in comparison to uncoated specimens. None of the water collected from specimens coated with latex or oil-based paint contained detectable levels of CCA elements. In some cases, water collected from specimens coated with the water-repellent deck stain contained detectable levels of copper and arsenic. However, the highest individual sample concentration of arsenic detected was only 4 µg/L above the allowable level (10 µg/L) set by the Environmental Protection Agency for arsenic in drinking water. The coatings evaluated in this study were probably effective because they limited the movement of water into and out of the treated wood. Other types of coatings that prevent wetting of wood are likely to have the same effect. However, coatings

## Western Tent Caterpillar

**Order:** Lepidoptera  
(moths & butterflies)  
**Family:** Lasiocampidae  
(tent caterpillars & lappet moths)  
**Species:** *Malacosoma californicum pluviale*

### Biology and Life History

The western tent caterpillar has one generation a year and over winter in the egg stage. In early spring, when deciduous trees begin to leaf out, larvae hatch from the eggs and feed on the emerging leaves. Western tent caterpillars find safety in numbers; the larvae aggregate together in communal silken tents during the night. Tents are usually formed in the crotches of smaller branches. Young larvae do not venture far from the tent and usually feed on the foliage of a single branch. The caterpillar's body is dark with spots of white, orange and blue. White and orange-yellow tufts of hair poke out from each segment.

As larvae mature, the caterpillars begin to become more solitary, feeding by themselves or in smaller groups. In June, the mature larvae wander away from the host tree and pupate by forming a white, puffy cocoon. After about ten days, adult moths emerge from the cocoon. Shortly after emerging, the adults mate. Adult moths are hairy, reddish-brown, stout moths. Often you will find these moths head-butting your porch light bulbs in June and July. Females seek new host trees to lay eggs on. Eggs are laid in frothy masses in batches of 100 to 350 on host tree branches. The eggs will stay glued on the tree until the larvae hatch next spring.



### Damage

Western tent caterpillars feed on most species of deciduous trees and shrubs. If you see tents present on conifers, in spring, chances are good that those are the caterpillars of the silver-spotted tiger moth. Western tent caterpillars feed on most species of deciduous trees and shrubs including: alder, apple, ash, birch, cherry, cottonwood, willow, roses and other fruit trees.

Like the silver-spotted tiger moth, the western tent caterpillar usually causes aesthetic damage to trees. The tent and denuded branch can appear unsightly to many people. Rarely is there more than one tent per established tree. However, on small trees, a single tent can result in 20% defoliation. Larger trees can tolerate this damage. Every now and then, we do have tent caterpillar outbreaks. These outbreaks are generally regulated by weather and temperature.



### Management

Recently, a Seattle news station covered a story about western tent caterpillars infesting Seattle. The reported stated, "Some people use a little gas and a match [to control the caterpillars]." NEVER recommend fire as a control method for tent caterpillars (or any other pest problem). Burning the tents can result in more damage to the tree. Additionally, this practice may result in personal injury and property damage. A simpler solution is found in pruning off the tented branch. It is best to do this at night or early morning, when the caterpillars are congregated in the tent. Dispose of the branch by placing into a yard bag or trashcan so the larvae can't escape and continue feeding. Other mechanical control methods can be implemented to manage the egg stage. Egg masses are easily seen on small trees and will simply peel off from the bark. You can do this in fall and winter.

Weather and temperature are important natural regulators of tent caterpillars. Many animals will also regulate these caterpillars such as birds, parasitic wasps and flies, and diseases (virus and bacteria). Conserve these good guys by reducing broad-spectrum insecticides and non-target applications of insecticides.

Chemical management of tent caterpillars is an extreme response to a serious tent caterpillar problem. Most times, mechanical controls are effective. However, during severe infestations insecticides may be warranted. If a biological insecticide is used, be sure to spray the entire foliage that is being affected. Caterpillars must eat a good amount of the treated foliage to be sickened. If a contact insecticide is used, treat the larvae that congregated in the early morning. This way, you do not have to spray the entire tree, just the tents. In doing this, be sure that your pesticide is penetrating the tent. Making tears into the tents may be worthwhile before you spray. As with all our chemical recommendations, be sure to read and follow the label. Visit WSU Hortsense (<http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense/>) for current recommendations.



# Nominations for John VanMiert Master Gardener of the Year Award

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED for our annual John VanMiert Master Gardener of the Year Award. Any master gardener may submit a nomination via phone, letter, or e-mail to any member of the foundation board before August 1. Just declare who you would like to nominate and why.

This award is given annually to a person who has been a Master Gardener for at least three years. It is to be awarded for exemplary service to the Master Gardeners of Whatcom County and the community. John has had so much influence on us all as a teacher, a writer, a speaker, a diligent worker, and a volunteer extraordinaire. Therefore, the service of the recipient of this award might be in the form of one or more of the following:

- a. TAUGHT a class, a workshop, a clinic, a course, seniors at a retirement home, or kids on an outing.
- b. WRITTEN a book, a poem, an article, a newsletter column.
- c. SPOKEN to a group or children, a garden club, class of Master Gardeners, the public,
- d. Spent far too many hours to count each year WORKING in support of a specific project such as Hovander demonstration garden, the annual plant sale, the greenhouse, cleaning and organizing the office.
- e. Giving an extraordinary number of hours of VOLUNTEER TIME such as keeping regular hours at the office no matter what, helping set up and run the Master Gardener classes, or putting in countless hours towards organizing the advanced training program.

*Continued from page 5*

that are likely to blister and peel and subsequently require sanding or scraping, such as varnish, may not be desirable for this type of application. The frequency of reapplication needed for any of these coatings will depend on the amount of wear they receive. Results of this study demonstrate that applying common exterior wood coatings is an effective means of reducing the amount of copper, chromium, and arsenic leached from CCA-treated wood.

### Average amount leached and rate of release of arsenic, chromium, and copper from uncoated and coated specimens

Type of coating	Average total amount leached (mg)			Average leaching rate ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{mm}$ of rainfall) a		
	Arsenic	Chromium	Copper	Arsenic	Chromium	Copper
Uncoated b	13.77 (1.94) c	6.88 (1.63)	12.57 (1.36)	188.3 (22.5)	94.6 (23.5)	173.0 (21.5)
Latex primer and paint	ND d	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Oil-based primer and paint	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Water-repellent deck stain	0.05 (0.06)	ND	0.40 (0.32)	0.53 (0.70)	ND	4.48 (3.95)

a Calculated as micrograms released per square meter of surface area during each millimeter of simulated rainfall.

b Because of the high proportion of exposed end grain in these specimens, this rate of release is higher than would be expected from treated lumber used in typical residential applications.

c Numbers in parentheses represent one standard deviation from the mean.

d Element was not detected in any of the water samples collected from any of the specimens. The detection limits of the method were 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  for arsenic and 2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  for chromium and copper.

Excerpted with deletions to fit available space from United States Forest Products Laboratory, Phone: (608) 231-9200;  
<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/techline/III-4.pdf>

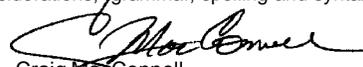
Craig MacConnell



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](mailto: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.



Master Gardener Office:  
Courthouse Annex 1000 N. Forest St.  
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## Dates to Remember:

- June 5 ..... 10 a.m. to Noon ..... **Monthly Foundation Board Meeting**  
Extension Office
- June 12 ..... 7 to 9:30 p.m. .... **Monthly Foundation Meeting**  
See article for locations
- June 12 -15 ..... All Day ..... **VanDusen Flower & Garden Show**
- June 26 ..... 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. .... **Bus Trip to Vancouver**  
Depart at Ferndale Park & Ride
- Wednesdays ..... 8 to 9 a.m. .... **Master Gardener breakfasts**  
Babe's in Ferndale
- Wednesdays ..... 1 to 4 p.m. .... **Bellingham Public Library Clinic**
- Wednesday & Saturday ... 9 a.m. to noon ..... **Hovander Work Parties**