

Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print



Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners

December 2003

From Everyone at the Extension Office, Happy Holidays!

The Graduation/Potluck was a super night! We had a great turnout and a wonderful program. The David Simonson cheerleaders replayed the program that won him WSU Master Gardener of the Year at the State Advanced Training seminar at Port Townsend, and it was impressive. Three Master Gardeners received 20-year awards, and Life Memberships were awarded to those members deserving recognition for exemplary service (see complete article in this newsletter). Cheryl Greenwood Kinsley gave an extremely interesting talk as our featured speaker. The food was good, and was hot, as Craig testified to. Two Broken Shovel Awards were given, and Karen Gilliam received the coveted John VanMiert Award. As you can see, we had a lot going on and a good time was had by all.

Some of the newly graduated Master Gardeners could not attend the ceremony, so did not receive their certificates. We will keep them in the office for you to pick up at your convenience.

We are keeping busy in the office clinic, so those needing volunteer hours may get them by signing up. Marlene Robinson is the coordinator for this activity, and a calendar is kept in the office AND on line! If you need the link contact Karri at karrimac@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu

Good Cheer to all!

Al McHenry

Master Gardener Life Members

The designation of Life Member is for Veteran Master Gardener Volunteers who have made significant contributions to the program. It is a high honor status reserved for those members who:

1. Have longevity with the Whatcom County Master Gardener Program. This would be a minimum of ten years of very active volunteer membership. OR
2. Have given exemplary service to the Whatcom County Master Gardener Program. This would be a minimum of five hundred hours of previous volunteer service. OR
3. Have provided the WSU Master Gardener Program with exemplary service, but must limit active participation due to significant life changes.

Veteran Master Gardeners may be granted Life Member status by the WSU Cooperative Extension Staff, MG Staff, and the Master Gardener Foundation Board.

Requests for Life Member status may be submitted to the Master Gardener Program Coordinator by the volunteer, the staff, or a colleague. Candidates are to be approved by the Master Gardener Foundation Board, or their representative, and the WSU Whatcom County Master Gardener Program staff.

Life members are encouraged to continue to be a volunteer resource, and to make further contributions to the Master Gardener program. While, minimum volunteer hours are no longer required, Life Members should continue to report all volunteer hours to the office.

Life Members will continue to be on the mailing list and have the privileges and discounts of active Master Gardeners.

WSU Master Gardener Program Purpose Statement:

To provide public education in gardening and home horticulture based on research-based information from WSU Cooperative Extension.

WSU Master Gardener Program Slogan:

"Cultivating Plants, People and Communities since 1973"

Newsletter Deadline:

*Third Wednesday of every
month.*

Tis the Season



By Faye Agner

November brought us a fine mix of weather as a prelude to winter. We've had a cold snap, sunny days, and now the wind and rain that tells us it is the end of November and to get ready for December and winter.

December brings us the holidays and time for Christmas trees and greens to be brought indoors for decorations. With regard to a Christmas tree, if you are going to purchase a cut tree, remember that the growers cut all the trees at the same time, so shop early for the best-looking tree. Select a full, symmetrical tree with supple needles that are blue-green or rich green. Brush the needles and shake the tree. If falling needles shower you feet, look further for your tree. When you get your tree home, cut off the bottom inch on the trunk and plunge the trunk into a bucket of water. Keep the tree in a cool, shady place until you are ready to decorate it.

A little bleach added to the water will kill bacteria that slow down the capillary action. A tree with good moisture levels will drink about 1 liter per inch of diameter of the trunk. In other words, an average tree with a 4-inch trunk would drink about 2 to 4 liters per day. If your stand does not hold at least a gallon of water, you might consider using a five gallon plastic bucket with rocks in the bottom to hold the tree upright.

If a living tree is your choice, there are many varieties from which to choose. You needn't confine yourself to a fir or hemlock. There are many interesting trees available that you might select with an eye to where they will fit in your landscape. Regardless of your choice, being indoors is hard on the living tree.

Conditions are too hot and too dry. Place the tree in a container that will accommodate the root ball, which needs to be kept evenly moist. When considering a living tree, remember to add a foot or two, so you have room for the root ball without going through the ceiling. Use small, cool lights and save your heavier decorations for the mantel. If the weather is very cold when you move the tree back out of doors, be sure to place it in a protected location for a week or so before planting. If your tree has a burlap ball, you do not need to remove the burlap, but be sure to loosen it. You may even want to cut through the fabric in several places. I know this is silly, but if your tree is in a container, be sure to remove the tree from the pot.

Be sure to keep leaves and debris from your lawn and beds. They make ideal breeding places for slugs and the like. Leaves will smother the lawn if not removed.

After any heavy storm, assess any tree and shrub damage that may have occurred. If there is major damage such as fallen limbs or trees and you are not sure of the correct solution, call your friendly Extension Office or talk with your nursery person. After a snow, grab a broom and walk your property. Shrubs that are completely buried with snow should be left alone. The same is true for leafless deciduous trees and most needle-leaved pines. Take action only if the trunk of the tree is badly bowed down (this usually occurs with small trees). Gently shake the trunk to dislodge the snowy burden. Bounce the lower branches from underneath to relieve the most heavily stressed areas. Dense evergreens and shrubs are often deformed by heavy snow. Using the bristle end of your broom, gently bounce the middle of the branches from underneath. In the infrequent event of an ice storm, do nothing. The brittle coat formed by ice acts as both a load and a support. Let nature take its course.

If you have a husband like mine, hide the pruning shears as pruning of the fruit trees and ornamental trees should be postponed until the end of January and February. A severe winter could do damage to pruning wounds. It's a good

time for taking cuttings of many foliage plants for rooting in a propagation cold frame or a container indoors or, for the lucky owners, a hobby greenhouse. It's late but you can have still good results if you have to plant spring-bulbs; enrich soil with bulb food, bone meal should be your first choice, and add some nitrogen on top of the planting bed early in February.

Now is a good time to reflect on the Chinese custom of paying all debts before the beginning of a new year. Pick up around your yard, care for any broken limbs due to wind damage, pick up leaves and debris that can hide slugs and their eggs. While you are in the cleaning mode, go through the chemicals and fertilizers in your potting area and discard all the out of date, empty, or nearly containers in the manner suggested on the labels.

WHO AM I?

I am native to the Himalayas and cool regions of Southeast Asia and Europe. My form a foliage rosette; at bloom time, typically a circular, sometimes fragrant flowers with five petals rise above my leaves. My petals usually overlap and are often indented at the apex, sometimes so deeply that each flower appears that each flower appears to have ten parts. My blossoms may be borne on individual stems, in clusters at stem ends, or in tiered candelabra-like clusters along my stem. I am sometimes spring blooming, but I may start flowering in mid- to late winter in mild climates, and even a few may bloom in early summer. I may go dormant in late fall or winter, so mark my location before I disappear.

Have a happy and a safe holiday season, everyone!





President's Message

Linda Bergquist,
MGF President

A new crop of Master Gardeners graduated on November 13th. I always think that's exciting because new people mean new enthusiasm and new ideas. In a way, that's what gardening is all about – starting with something new, nurturing it, and watching it bloom into something lovely.

Our organization is like that, too. We started long ago, people have nurtured us with their enthusiasm and ideas, and we've really blossomed into something truly wonderful. So many people have helped over the years; many have been with us for 10, 20, or more years. I think people stay connected with our group because there are so many different and interesting facets to our program. So many Master Gardeners share their experience, their expertise, and their enthusiasm. There are so many opportunities to get advanced training, learn new things from our monthly meetings, and see new things on our legendary bus tours.

And what dedicated, interesting, and fun people I've met in Master Gardeners. People with all kinds of different gardening interests, with nifty tricks that I've put to use, and many with tireless dedication. There are so many examples of such dedication – for instance saving the dahlias out at Hovander from rising floodwaters comes to mind. Dick Porter took it upon himself to go out there and do what needed to be done, organizing a group of people from the Corrections Department, and saving the dahlias. Or, how about Karen Gilliam, a Life Member and this year's John VanMiert Award winner, – 27 years as a Master Gardener! Or, David Simonson, who you all know from his tireless efforts at Hovander, selected as Washington State Master Gardener of the Year at the recent state convention. So many nice, nice people in our organization.

Maybe you are already enjoying all the opportunities in our Master Gardener group. Or perhaps you look over the Weeder's Digest each month but haven't really been participating much. I encourage everyone to take advantage of everything we have available to us as Master Gardeners. Come to a lecture (or maybe you'd like to give one!), share your expertise, learn something new. Sign up for a bus tour of an interesting garden. Attend the state convention. Volunteer a few hours in the Foundation's office, or at Hovander, or at the annual plant sale. Replant yourself, grow some more, let your gardening interest bloom again. Thanks, I hope to see you soon.

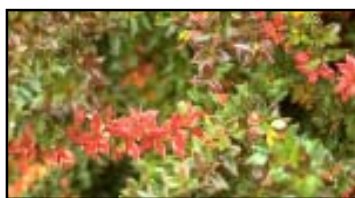
Special Guest Speaker for December Meeting

Since it is close to the holiday season, we thought it appropriate we obtain an extra special speaker to entertain and enlighten us at our general meeting. So, tell all your friends, come yourself and bring a friend with you. We want to totally fill up the room with enthusiastic gardeners with a hunger for some interesting insights and great tips especially for west coast gardeners! Learn the advantages our fabulous maritime climate has over other parts of North America and the great things we can do in our gardens and the great variety of plants we can grow that our friends and families living elsewhere cannot. Steve Whysall will present a talk with slide show, a short question period and book signing at the end.

Born in Nottingham, England, Steve worked as a reporter for various newspapers including the London Evening News before coming to Canada in 1975. For the past 15 years he has been the garden columnist for The Vancouver Sun. He is also the author of three books: 100 Best Plants for Coastal Gardens, 100 Best Plants for Ontario Gardens, and The Blooming Great Gardening Book. In 1999 Steve was named Communicator of the Year by the British Columbia Landscape and Nursery Association. In his spare time, he tends his own English-style cottage garden at his home in Burnaby, British Columbia. He and his wife, Loraine, have been married for 28 years. They have three children.

Plants of the Month By Cheryl Greenwood Kinsley

Beyond Flowers!



Berberis verruculosa, leaves in fall



Erica darleyensis, in winter



Taxus baccata 'Repandens'



Nandina domestica, Dwarf form in winter



Thuja occidentalis, plant habit in winter



Gaultheria procumbens

Few of us are willing to forego flowers in our gardens entirely, and with good reason. One of the greatest pleasures of gardening is anticipating the appearance of favorite blooms and enjoying their show—for the time it lasts. Alas, many floral displays are short-lived—and a great deal of care may be required to help them along. In my garden, I've come to expect flowers to be fleeting accents, punctuation points—and now I limit the number of flowering plants that are particularly fussy and insist on constant attention if they're to look good. Of course, "good looks" are in the eye of the gardener. I love the way peony foliage ages through the summer and into the fall—although given my love of peonies, I might invite them to stay if only for the flowers. I don't mind that they disappear entirely from December to March. Nor do I hold that same habit against the hostas. I've developed a taste for the sparse look in winter of the areas where the peonies and hostas prosper during the other three seasons. While they're resting underground, I can appreciate the *Gaultheria procumbens* 'Macrocarpa' shining through the gray winter days, freed from the hosta canopy, and the *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans Compacta' that finally has the chance to strut its stuff without fighting the peonies for center stage.

How plants look when they're *not* flowering has become very important to me. Leaf color and texture, as well as size—these are among the attributes that I might overlook if I think solely in terms of flowers. Some plants have only "inconspicuous" blooms—but the leaves of *Heuchera* 'Persian Carpet', for example, are as pretty as can be, all season long. And flaky-barked shrubs and small trees—among them deciduous maples and hawthorns as well as evergreen junipers and *Cryptomeria*—add their own elements of beauty. I appreciate the grasses that are well-behaved and attractive all year, and deciduous shrubs with good shape—not too twiggy—that offer up delightful surprises like interesting seedpods or plump little buds or berries to catch my eye. Some of these berries are fancied by birds, who chatter happily from the safe haven provided by the stickery and tangled midst of the flowering quince to remind me that even "twiggy" has a place in my garden. More and more I expect the plants that I grow to hold their own by looking good most of the year—rather than blinding me with flower-power during two weeks in May and then looking tired from their effort throughout the summer—or demanding constant deadheading to keep their good looks.

And there are so many choices of handsome plants that require little attention from me. *Nandina* sparkles in the winter, the December to April flower show of *Erica darleyensis* 'Ghost Hills' only enhances its attractiveness, and *Calluna* 'Winter Chocolate'—well, its name says it all. Dogwoods with red twigs, *Kerria* with green ones, and *Berberis verruculosa*, much too pretty for the common name—wartly barberry—somebody stuck on it. And if I must have a few more flowers in December, if I simply can't make it through until the winter-blooming jasmine and Chinese witch hazel take off in January—well, there's always *Camellia sasanqua* 'Yuletide'.

Small conifers deserve star status in the year-round, easy-care garden. So many are available now, in all shapes, sizes, leaf textures, and—at least it seems so—colors. It's hard to beat the combination of *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Moonglow' next to a *Thuja occidentalis* 'Rheingold'—or a *Taxus baccata* 'Watnong Gold' or 'Repandens Aurea' sprawling over the top of a rock wall. Who said yews had to be huge? If you're interested in the possibilities small conifers offer, a great place to start your search for information is the American Conifer Society Web site at www.conifersociety.org.

Coming up with new ideas about what makes for an interesting garden is easy in December, when the bare bones of your landscape stand stark and dramatic. Why not try something different? Consider adding a few plants that offer more than just pretty flowers, and you may find yourself heading into spring with a new interest in foliage colors and textures. Looking at *Heuchera*, *Hypericum*, and *Hakonechloa*—and of course, *Hosta*—will inspire you to explore new possibilities. There are literally hundreds of choices of plants that provide interest with aspects other than flowers. And who knows—you may just find you'll have more time to stop and smell the roses if you don't actually grow them.

Happy holidays, everyone—and best wishes for a good-growing New Year!

Garden Friends and FoesBy Todd Murray

Sequoia Pitch Moth

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Sesiidae

Species: *Synanthedon sequoiae*

Description and Life History: It's time to start picking out that perfect Christmas tree. During November and December, we have a history of people bringing in sappy samples from their poor tree that was slated to stand high in the living room. This is the time of year that people notice the symptoms of the sequoia pitch moth.



Caption 1. Adult sequoia pitch moth.

The sequoia pitch moth (SPM) is a pest of ornamental conifers and forests. SPM feeds on pines (*Pinus*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsunga*) and spruce (*Picea*) but does not actually infest sequoia trees. So, why is it called the sequoia pitch moth? I don't know.

The adult SPM is a clearwinged moth that mimics yellowjacket wasps, much like many other clearwing moth species. Adult moths are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long with yellow and black-banded bodies. The wings are outlined in dark blue scales with yellow scales near the base of the wings. Adults fly during the day from May through August. The peak flight tends to happen in June. Adult females lay eggs singly near wounds or openings on the tree trunk or larger branches. Eggs hatch within 2-3 weeks. Larvae bore into the bark and begin to feed on the inner bark tissue and outer sapwood. Feeding from the sequoia pitch moth causes large pitch masses to form. Larvae can take up to two years to develop. Mature larvae are 1 inch long and are dirty white, pink or yellowish in color with dark head capsules. Once larvae mature, pupae are found protruding from the pitch mass.



Caption 2. Pupal case protruding from pitch mass.

Damage: SPM causes unsightly pitch masses on susceptible trees. Extensive infestations can cause dieback of the tree's canopy, girdling and death of the tree. Infestations can weaken the tree's structure and can cause breakage of limbs and trunks. SPM prefers trees over five feet high but can infest young saplings. SPM, like many tree-infesting pests, prefer weakened trees with mechanical injuries. SPM damage can also open opportunities for other pests to invade such as bark beetles, rusts and cankers. Damage can be confused with other pests, like the pine pitch canker.

Monitoring: Regularly inspect trees for pitch masses. Older pitch masses will have gray colored, hard pitch while fresh, active masses will be soft, tacky to the touch and milky pink or orange in color. A pheromone lure is available for purchase to monitor the flight activity of the adult moths.

Management: Sequoia pitch moths rarely kill trees. In nature, most trees will have SPM but only in very small numbers. Plant pest-resistant trees. The most excellent MG reference, "Insects that feed on trees and shrubs" has a long list of resistant and susceptible pines.

Tree health is key for warding off these annoying pitch pests. I've visited a Douglas fir tree farm to look at some sick trees. The farmer showed me the many pitch masses on his trees but, what caught my eye was the numerous wounds made by a weed-whacker. It was obvious that SPMs were exploiting these injured trees. Reduce any mechanical damage, including pruning cuts, to growing, susceptible trees. Do not leave tree stakes attached for too long. Rubbing wounds caused by tree stakes can cause more sites for SPM to infest.

Maintain tree health. Be sure that your trees are matched to the right habitat. Be sure to meet all the tree's nutrients and water requirements. It is important to keep the tree healthy.

Prune off infested branches during October through February. Make a clean pruning cut and leave the tree collar intact so the tree can heal before more moths fly in May. If pitch masses are easily reached, dig out the larvae during the winter and spring. Using a pocketknife, or like tool, pry off the pitch mass. Physically destroy or remove the larvae when you encounter them. There will be only one larva per individual pitch mass. Leave the wound clean and remove any other debris. Pruning paint is not necessary and may slow or disturb the healing of the wound.

There are no pesticides available to recommend for treating SPM problems. Recent work using a management technique called "mating-disruption" shows some promise for reducing SPM populations in a backyard or tree farm setting. If trees are baited with multiple pheromone dispensers, males will have a difficult time finding female moths to mate. Using this technique will require multiple years of disruption because sequoia pitch moths take up to two years to develop. This method of management has proven to be very useful for controlling other pests over large areas, such as codling moths and gypsy moths. Populations can decrease rapidly in a single pest generation, leaving many confused, frustrated male moths and more unmated female moths. What other evil, torturous pest management methods will entomologists think of next?

Brazilian Elodea

Egeria densa



Threat: Brazilian elodea, native to South America, has been imported to North America, as well as many countries around the world, as an aquarium plant (often sold under the name of Anacharis). It has been intentionally or accidentally introduced to freshwater bodies in many of these areas. Brazilian elodea forms dense stands in both still and flowing waters, which can cover entire lake surfaces. These dense stands affect water movement, water quality, recreational uses and navigation, as well as trapping sediment and impacting native plants and fish. Brazilian elodea grows rapidly in the spring, shading out slower growing native plants. In the United States, this weed apparently spreads solely by plant fragmentation, as no female plants are known to be present in this country. It is illegal to sell this plant in the state of Washington.

Description: Brazilian elodea is a submersed, freshwater perennial. It roots in water up to 20 feet deep, with the stems growing up to the surface of the water, where they form dense mats. Adventitious roots grow from the stem nodes. The leaves and stem are generally bright green. The leaves are minutely serrated, 1-3 centimeters long and up to 5 millimeters wide. Brazilian elodea produces small white flowers, with three petals, in late spring and again in the fall. The flowers float on the water or rise above the surface on threadlike stems. In this country, only male flowers have been found so seed production is not known to occur here. This plant is often confused with other aquatic plants, both native and introduced. Brazilian elodea has four (sometimes eight) leaves per whorl (hydrilla, another introduced weed has five

leaves per whorl, while the native American elodea, or waterweed, has three).

Control: Like all aquatic weeds, control is difficult and eradication may be unrealistic. To prevent the spread of any of these plants, trailers, boats and fishing gear should be carefully inspected to avoid transporting plant materials between water bodies. Aquarium plants should never be discarded in sewer systems or water bodies. Accurate identification of Brazilian elodea is essential before control work can begin, as it resembles other aquatic plants, including some native species. Control efforts can include chemical and mechanical measures, although success is usually limited. Cutting the plants will open up the water body, but does not kill the plant. All plant pieces must be removed from the water as escaped plant fragments will spread the infestation. Bottom barriers can be used in small areas, such as docks or swimming areas, to prevent the growth of bottom-rooting plants. Where possible, water drawdowns may be used to control Brazilian elodea, although success is dependent on many variables (degree of desiccation, substrate, air temperature and presence of snow. Grass carp will eat Brazilian elodea readily and may be effective in appropriate sites. Contact the weed board for site-specific chemical recommendations.

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

David Simonson Takes Top Honors at the State Conference



Lettuce give a cheer for the cream of the crop! Our very own David Simonson has been selected as the #1 Master Gardener volunteer in the state of Washington for 2003! The Whatcom County Master Gardener Foundation chose David from among our ranks to nominate at the state level for Master Gardener of the Year. His teaching skills along with his generous nature and his leadership abilities as coordinator of the very successful Hovander demonstration garden for the past 14 years put David over the top for the State title. Those who attended the state conference in Port Townsend found the award ceremony on Saturday night to be the highlight of their weekend. David made us all feel very proud to be a Master Gardener volunteer and proud of our own program and fellow master gardeners in Whatcom County.

Each county with the master gardener program may nominate one of their master gardeners for state Master Gardener of the Year. Six criteria are used in the selection process. They are commitment, community involvement, promotion of the WSU Master Gardener program, educational impact, leadership, and legacy. David just seemed to shine in every category. We submitted many photos, letters from local

leaders, and a text describing David's lengthy career as a superb master gardener volunteer. The result speaks for itself!

The Diary of a Mad Garden Fanatic

Twelve Whatcom County Master Gardeners ventured out on a very blustery morning to the state conference in Port Townsend. Getting there was no walk in the park, as gale force winds delayed the ferry crossing until noon.

We celebrated our arrival the first night with a birthday cake for David. A gust of wind from an open window helped blow out the candles. Could this be an omen?

We attended many worthwhile seminars during the three day conference, although a favorite seed class was canceled due to speaker illness. Some of us experienced the energy and passion of Ciscoe Morris for the first time. Sooo many weeds, so little time..... Good lessons were learned at other classes. Cass Turnbull and Clay Antieau urged us to QUIT FIGHTING NATURE! Think about what you're planting, where it goes, and how big it will get. You'll decrease work and frustration if you just quit trying to change that plant into something else. Another big lesson: Mulch, Mulch, Mulch!



All the seminar speakers had much to offer us and many means by which to approach and attain our goals. We came home with many new gardening techniques, new pruning methods, and yard art. We learned about hardscaping, xeroscaping, how to live with some weeds and recognize the noxious ones. We realized we all have our strengths and weaknesses, and woke up to the realization that each of us cannot possibly learn all there is to learn, nor do everything in our gardens in one lifetime.

Interacting with new acquaintances and those we went to the conference with was very valuable. We met many passionate master gardeners from all over Washington — 600 of us in all. Many of them were very knowledgeable, specialized, and experienced. Being there was a sharing experience. We swapped methods, mistakes, accomplishments, and our hopes and dreams for better gardening and improving the means of passing our knowledge and skills on to others.

Some of us made many great contacts with people from other counties, which will serve as a means of reaching out to our fellow Master Gardeners, keeping in touch, and learning from them. The jam sessions we had each evening in our apartment helped put it all into perspective, and created a great sense of camaraderie among those in our Whatcom County group.

The biggest highlight we all reveled in was the award banquet, where, much to his surprise and delight, David was awarded The State Master Gardener of the Year for 2003. His cheering squad drew many chuckles as he walked to the stage to receive this honor as top Master Gardener volunteer.

Our last breakfast together at the appropriately named "Salal Cafe" in Port Townsend before sailing home seemed a fitting 'good-bye' to an event-filled three days. We hope many more Whatcom County Master Gardeners have the opportunity to attend future state conferences.

AND this really sums it all up for the twelve of us.....

"The highlight of this experience has been being in the company of hundreds of Master Gardeners, including those from my own county. I find Master Gardeners to be among the most generous, creative and wise individuals I have known in my life. Spending this time with them has left me bubbling with new ideas and renewed in spirit. I love this program and every one of you involved in it."

Master Gardener Foundation \$750.00 Scholarship Available

A number of months ago John VanMiert was instrumental in establishing our Master Gardener Foundation scholarship by donating \$2,000 as start up money. Our Foundation Board has since agreed to add to the fund by setting aside 20% of each year's income. In addition, members and friends have also donated to the scholarship fund. As a result, this year our Master Gardener Foundation will be offering our initial \$750.00 scholarship to some deserving Whatcom County student who plans to pursue a career in horticulture or agriculture.

Application forms as well as a list of requirements will soon be available at all Whatcom County high schools as well as at the Master Gardeners' office. Application forms are also available on the Whatcom County Master Gardener webpage at <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/homehort/mg/mgarden.htm>

If you know of a student who might be eligible please alert them to this opportunity.



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.



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Dates to Remember:

- December 4 10 a.m. to noon **Monthly Foundation Board Meeting**
Extension Office
- December 11 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. **Monthly Foundation Meeting**
See article for details
- Wednesdays 8 to 9 a.m. **Master Gardener breakfasts**
Babe's in Ferndale