

# Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print



Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners

July 2004

Our current roster was sent out last month to those we knew did not have internet access; everyone who does have internet capability will receive a copy via e-mail. If you can't download it, please contact Karri at the Extension Office. It contains all the current information about the active members. If you know of inaccuracies in a telephone number, address, or e-mail address, please inform the office so it can be corrected.

The Northwest Washington Fair will be upon us in August, so Gretchen White is now accepting volunteers. Let her know what date you want reserved for your time at the Fair. We will be under the grandstands again this year, however we may not be in the same spot as before. It is always a fun time no matter where we are located.

Talking about August – Our Hovander meeting will be a true potluck, so plan on bringing your favorite dish to share. Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter.

Don't forget to volunteer your time at Hovander this month. I know that July is a busy month with vacations and outdoor activities for the family. But it is also a critical time for the garden, so whatever time you can spare will be appreciated.

Keep sending in your time slips – we need them, Thanks.

*~ Al McHenry*

## July Garden Tours

Our July 8 Garden tour will be in the Laurel area, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Scott and Julie Mauerman, 956 W. Laurel Road. Scott's stimulating presentation to the Foundation in March prompted requests to tour his landscape. We will see an example of the Chuckanut sandstone walls he is constructing, as well as a welcoming pond, waterfall and brick patio, and stone gathering circle. Julie maintains the perennial and vegetable gardens, and Scott is currently developing access to the bog area on their property. They are participating in the CREP program, Conservation Resource Enhancement Program, with approximately one acre of plantings along Ten Mile Creek. This is a federal and state program that pays land owners, through establishment of 10-15 year contracts, to plant trees and shrubs along eligible streams to improve habitat for salmon.

The second garden, belonging to Gerrit and Arlene Byeman, 147 E. Laurel Road, planted on a hillside with wonderful trees and shrubs lining the grassy ascent to the top, where fruit trees, berries and vegetables have a sunny exposure. A sign reading "The Laurel Hill Goldmine" hangs on a wooden structure that begins a series of waterfalls and ponds down the hillside to the patio, richly planted with shrubs, perennials and succulents.

We will finish our tour at the home of Jack and Judy Boxx, 270 E. Laurel Road. The Boxx's completed the Master Gardener training this year, but they have been developing their gardens for 35! The front garden is a shady "natural planting" along a stream with an old windmill from the midwest that pumps water to and from the pond. The house is surrounded by mixed borders, interspersed with lawn art made by Judy and wooden structures made by Jack. Antique farm implements decorate the lawn and garden beds. Don't miss Jack's favorite part of the garden...the bicycle 'waterfall'.

Directions: Laurel Road is approximately 6 miles north of I-5. From Northwest Road, turn Right (East) onto W. Laurel Road and turn Left (North) onto Braeside Lane in 1/4 mile. Proceed down the lane, following the fence line as it turns to the Right. At the end of the fence is the Mauermans, 956 W. Laurel Road. From the Guide Meridian, turn Left (West) onto W. Laurel Road, proceed 2.2 miles, and turn Right (North) onto Braeside Lane. As you leave the Mauermans, turn Left (East) onto W. Laurel Road. After you cross the Guide, the Byeman's house is the 1st house on the Right (South) side of the road, 147 E. Laurel Road. The Boxx's house is less than 1/4 mile further East on E. Laurel, on the Left (North) side of the road, 270 E. Laurel Road.

PLEASE CARPOOL IF POSSIBLE!!!!!!!

### **WSU Master Gardener Program Purpose Statement:**

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

July, the month of the fourth, summer is here and it is picnic time with fried chicken and strawberry shortcake.

Our gardens are now producing and we can enjoy the fruits of our labors as well as cut down on the produce cost at the local supermarket. What comes out of our gardens is fresher and better. Along with a feast for the tummy, there is also a feast for the eyes on the beauty of the wide range of colors and the diversity of blooms in our gardens and those of our neighbors. Now is the time to look around and see if there is something new you would like to see in your yard next summer.

To insure a good crop of large and juicy fruit the best thing you can do is to make sure they have adequate water. Mulch around the trees and use a soaker hose to give them a deep watering every week in hot weather.

It is important to keep your annuals and perennials deadheaded, or they will stop blooming. Many of the summer blooms, marigolds, petunias, and geraniums are among those that will benefit from this treatment.

As far as maintenance goes, keep after slugs and snails. Go hunting in the shaded parts of the garden for the little creatures. Hand pick them in the evening or after a rain. You can also make good use of slug bait.

Make sure there is NO standing water in your yard. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as one tablespoon. There are already cases of West Nile Disease showing up. If you find dead birds around your yard, dispose of them by picking them up with a shovel. Please do not pick them up with unprotected hands.

It is time to divide bearded irises. Stop watering them early this month. At month's end, trim back the leaves into fans, then dig and divide the rhizomes. Let them heal in the shade for a few days, then replant. Remember the plant sale next year, and set aside a few nice rhizomes to help the cause.

Now is the time to pinch back those leggy petunias and trailing plants that spill from hanging baskets. Just remove the new growth down to a growth joint or node to encourage more branching and bushier growth. Petunias make long-

lasting cut flowers and some are fragrant as well, so snipping off blossoms need not feel wasteful.

Chrysanthemums also need attention this time of year. Give them a dose of high-phosphorus liquid fertilizer (often called a bloom formula) every three weeks until buds start to show color. When the first blooms open, feed weekly.

Fuchsias also need attention. Remove faded flowers to keep new ones coming. Expect bloom to slack off during the hot weather before bouncing back in the fall. Sustain fuchsias in containers with liquid plant fertilizer every two weeks.

Spring flowering bulbs will have finished their growth and may be dug, cleaned and stored. Tulips should be lifted every year. Daffodils multiply by offsets, or baby bulbs attached to the parent plant. As they multiply they often get too crowded and don't bloom as prolifically or as large as they did when they were first planted. After several years they may need thinning. After the daffodils bloom in the spring, let the foliage yellow and die back. Then turn up a clump of bulbs with a spading fork. Shake the dirt off the clump and pull all the larger (1 to 2 inch) bulbs apart. These large bulbs may still have bulblets surrounding them, depending on how long it's been since you last divided. Gently pull any bulblets from the large bulbs, trying not to damage the roots. Replant them at three times their height in well-drained soil. If your soil has more clay, don't plant them as deeply; if it is on the sandy side go a little deeper. The bulblets may take three or four years to bloom.

Gather herbs for drying. Pick them in the morning to preserve the fragrance. The leaves should be completely dry.

Cutting roses or removing the dead flowers will encourage subsequent bloom. Most hybrid tea roses will continue to bloom and will provide good fall display if you prune carefully now. A monthly fertilizer application is needed to keep the roses blooming.

The yield of beans and cucumbers will be improved if the plants are watered well with a weak liquid fertilizer. Be sure to make regular harvests from your vegetables while they are in their prime condition. Remove the suckers from tomatoes, and watch for needed staking

to keep the fruit off the ground. Overhead watering should be avoided. Moist weather and overhead irrigation are to blame for Late Blight on tomatoes.

Some summer pruning of fruit trees should be done in order to prevent diseases for the next season. Remove all trimmings away from the trees.

Fertilizing landscape plants after mid July with a high yield nitrogen fertilizer should be avoided for our area, because of stimulation of vigorous growth later in the fall, which will not be hardy for early frost. You can fertilize again after the plants are dormant. Flowering shrubs and trees, like forsythia, deutzia, hydrangea, potentilla, flowering cherry, crab apple, Hawthorne and others benefit from a fertilizer containing only phosphorus and potassium (0-10-10) for more flower setting. It makes the plants also hardier for winter season pansies, violas, wallflowers and forget-me-nots. Sow either in a cold frame or in a sheltered, shady spot in the garden. Among the vegetables that can be planted at this time for a late fall or winter harvest are beets, cabbage, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, radishes, scallions, spinach, Swiss chard and turnips. Look for more information next month on the planting of your winter garden.

Remember, as you go about dividing, moving, sorting your plants and bulbs, to set some aside for the plant sale.



## Who am I?

I grow in compact evergreen clumps of roundish leaves with scalloped edges. Slender, wiry, 1 -2 1/2 foot stems bear loose clusters of nodding, bell-shaped flowers, typically 1/8 inch or less across. Dainty blossoms consist of colorful fused sepals and are often petal-less; I am long lasting in cut arrangements, attractive to humming birds. My colors range from carmine, crimson, coral, rose pink, greenish and white.

Last month: Hosta

## President's Message

Linda Bergquist,  
MGF President

### A Great Opportunity!

On June 5, Bill Jennings, Jill Cotton, and Kathy Mitchell attended the quarterly state Master Gardeners meeting in Olympia. They reported back to the Board on the meeting including detailed information about the upcoming, annual State Master Gardeners Conference to be held in Olympia October 14-16. Evergreen College, a truly beautiful spot and a highly regarded educational facility, will be the Conference site; recommended lodging is at the nearby Red Lion Inn. The facilities are smaller this year so the Conference is limited to only 250 people. Last year there were 550 attendees.

Just to tempt you, here are some of the interesting lecture titles and noteworthy speakers:

- National Geographic's Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, who has been called "the queen of forest canopy research", a pioneer in forest ecology and who is credited with bridging the communication gap between scientists and the general public.
- Marty Wingate, a garden writer for the Seattle PI: "Botanical Latin"
- Fran Martoglio of Briggs Nursery: "New Plants"
- Don Tapio from WSU, who Todd Murray says is a great speaker: "Myth or Fact"
- Tonie Fitzgerald, who AI regards as very knowledgeable: "Lewis and Clark and Plants"
- Linda Chalker-Scott, WSU Hort Specialist-"Compost Tea"

These are just a few examples of the more than 35 speakers who will be presenting at the Conference.

Last year a group of us attended the Conference and we all came away with increased knowledge. As a bonus, we renewed old friendships and made new ones, not only among Whatcom County, but with others from throughout the state. Other counties were well represented, but I think we were the "loudest". When they announced that Whatcom County's own David Simonson was the recipient of the Master Gardener of the Year Award, we all stood up and cheered, "David, David, he's our man, if he can't grow it no one can"! I think we stunned a lot of people. We also got quite loud during a game of Cranium and, of course, at David's birthday party. To say the least, we had fun, learned a lot, and perhaps most importantly, enjoyed the time we were able to spend together.

So, please look at your calendar, check your bank account (I've started saving), and consider attending this interesting and valuable learning experience. The State Master Gardeners Conference costs \$150 which includes registration, most meals, and the lectures. Lodging is additional. A post card will be coming to you soon so you can request more information and a registration form. Remember to sign up early for the limited number of available spots.



### Summer Potluck-Back to a Tradition

Our August 12 Foundation meeting will be the annual summer family potluck. This year it will be a traditional potluck, as it was when it first became a summer event. Please bring your favorite main dish, salad or dessert to share with your fellow Master Gardeners. The Foundation will provide drinks, paper plates, cups and utensils. It will be held at the Picnic Area at Hovander Homestead Park in Ferndale at 6:00 p.m.

### July Bus Trip:

Don't miss out on our fabulous, fantastic and fun bus trip on July 22. We'll be taking the ferry to Vashon Island to visit DIG, a wonderful specialty nursery. After eating lunch under huge, old maples at DIG, we'll head back to the mainland to visit City People's Garden Store, where you can wander through their large selection of fine and unusual plants and visit their unique gift store. Lastly, we'll tour the Volunteer Park Conservatory, fashioned after London's Crystal Palace. Here you'll see a diverse collection of palms, cacti, bromeliads, cycads and orchids, as well as a special summer display.

Bring your lunch and lots to drink. We'll leave Civic Field at 7:00 a.m. and return to Bellingham by 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 for Master Gardeners and \$25.00 for guests. Contact Jean Powell (360/384-8023) or Chris Hurst (360/366-5501) to reserve your seat on the bus.

## Kitten's Tail

Family: Euphorbiaceae  
(Spurge family)  
Genus: *Acalypha*  
Species: *pendula*

One of the common names for the plant featured last month is lion's tail. This month we have kitten's tail, which takes us from large and ferocious feline to small and playful feline in just thirty days. Hmm. What's going on? No, it's not the same plant made smaller and more meek by the spring drought, monsoons out of season, and other weird weather we've experienced for more than a year. *Acalypha pendula* is another plant entirely, one native to tropical regions, collected in Cuba and elsewhere during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to delight the tastes of that era's gardeners for the dramatic, the usual, the exotic. It's sometimes referred to as *Acalypha repens* or *Acalypha reptans*—"pendula" is descriptive of its flower form while "repens" and "reptans" refer to its creeping growth habit—and gifted as well with at least two other common names, firetail and dwarf chenille plant. These are actually more frequently used than kitten's tail. That particular moniker may have been chosen by a retailer to highlight this plant's "cute" factor, although a much larger relative, *Acalypha hispida*, is commonly known as red-hot cat's tail and so kitten's tail makes sense. Surprise of surprises, *A. pendula* really is so cute that it doesn't need an endearing name to make it more appealing. Think of it as a domesticated, friendly Love-Lies-Bleeding. No tragic overtones to this plant—it's one that people can't help but reach out and touch.

*Acalypha pendula* is widely appreciated in Europe and in the southern U.S. as a "novelty" plant to be grown in containers and—in Florida, at least—as a small-scale ground cover for the front of the border and atop rock walls. It's also frequently cultivated as a houseplant, although it's really more suited to living outdoors. Too tender to survive chilly temperatures, this perennial is best grown here in the Northwest as an annual in containers and hanging baskets. If your captive arrangements set out in April are looking a little tired and tattered by now, you might want to freshen them up by tucking in one of these sweet little plants. Combine it with other plants that like very light shade or let it have a small to mid-sized container all to itself. During a warm, sunny summer—like the one that's forecast here this year—it will fill up the space, and its pretty flowers and leaves will spill over the edges in a way that's quite charming. The flower clusters of *A. pendula* sometimes turn up a little at the ends to look even more like a small cat's twitching tail. If the flowers on yours are sparse—it should bloom all summer—try moving your plant in its container to a spot where it will get a little more sun.

Pinch your *Acalypha pendula* back regularly to keep it bushy and full. Make sure the soil stays evenly moist but drains well, and every two weeks add a complete, balanced, liquid fertilizer. Kitten's tail isn't prone to any particular diseases. Do watch for spider mites and aphids, although these will be less of a problem in a container than if you were to put it in the ground or grow it indoors. If you do decide to winter yours over inside—and give it a chance to embark on the next of its presumably nine lives?—make sure to give it a thorough but gentle hosing, lest it carry pests into your house to plague your other plants.

The softness of the two-inch long flower clusters and the attractive green leaves belie this plant's membership in the spurge family, Euphorbiaceae. I'll leave to the botanists their rationale for placing it there. To me, *A. pendula* lacks all of the traits of other euphorbias. There's not even a trace of that characteristic white sap that causes allergic reactions in some people when it makes contact with skin. Kitten's tail resembles much more a very pretty ornamental strawberry in both appearance and habit except for those soft, rosy-red flower tufts at the end of its stems.

Some other species of the *Acalypha* genus are much larger and certainly not housebroken—capable of living indoors. *A. hispida* is a big, brawny shrub that tops ten feet at home in its native habitat. *A. wilkesiana* is a little shorter, but its leaves can reach eight inches in length. *A. hispaniolae* is much smaller, but with flower clusters that are larger and more deeply colored than those of *A. pendula*. Both *A. hispida* and *A. hispaniolae* have been given Awards of Merit by the Royal Horticultural Society and are much prized in England.

So sweet little kitten's tail comes from a proud family. It won't prowl out of bounds and prey on the space that our native plants need. Instead, it will stay where you put it, ask for only a little care, appreciate your admiring attention—and never, ever turn its back on you or claw your furniture. In other words, it will act not at all like its animal namesake! Besides, real cats—I think—don't come in pink.

## Garden Friends and Foes ..... By Todd Murray

### Golden Tortoise Beetle

**Order:** Coleoptera

**Family:** Chrysomelidae (Leaf Beetles)

**Species:** *Metritona bicolor*



Fig1. *M. bicolor* showing its spring colors.



Fig2. *M. bicolor* with overwintering colors.



Fig3. Cryptic larva concealed by it's shield.



Fig4. Larva adding to it's shield.



Fig5. Characteristic shot-hole feeding on bindweed.

In these monthly articles, we discuss the good, the bad and the bugly. Most bugs are just bugly; they do what insect do, with little direct effect on our daily lives. This month's insect is sometimes a pest when it eats sweet potatoes and sometimes beneficial when it feeds on bindweed, but it's always a curiosity. It's my favorite beetle in Whatcom County and it's a treat to catch a glimpse of it. So this month's article is more about appreciation than education.

The golden tortoise beetle is a very attractive beetle. Adults are about ¼ inch long, circular in shape with a flattening ridge outlining the body, concealing the head and legs much like a tortoise. What is striking about the adult golden tortoise beetle is the color. In spring and summer, the beetles earn their name when they turn the color of brilliant liquid gold. But capture one and the gold vanishes and the beetle becomes dirt brown. Here's why: the color is produced by an optical illusion; the outer cuticle is transparent and reflects light through a layer of liquid over the next layer of cuticle. The beetles change color depending on the availability of the liquid layer. In the fall and winter, the beetles become less lustrous and are more orange and bronze with flashes of iridescent color. If you try and collect the beetle for an insect collection, the beetle soon turns dark brown as it dries, losing the golden color. The beetles are most beautiful left alive.

The larvae hatch out in late May and June and are just as intriguing as the adults, but in a very different way. The young larvae are very small with many protuberances outlining their bodies giving them a 'frilly' and spiny appearance. As the larvae molts, it keeps its old skin attached to a fork-like structure hinged to its rear end. The larvae will also add feces to the cast skin causing it to appear as a black mess. A potential predator could mistake the would-be snack for bird droppings or some sort of crud. But wait, if that's not weird enough, the larvae can operate their 'shield' as a defense mechanism. When they are disturbed by another insect or a curious gardener, they flip the crusty shield up in the direction of the disturbance. This 'fecal shield' turns out to be an unappetizing effective deterrent to predators. Who would want to eat that!

The golden tortoise beetle produces one generation per year and spends the winter as an adult beetle in protected plant debris. When warmer temperatures arise and plants begin to grow, the adults forage for food. The golden tortoise beetle feeds only on plants in the Convolvulaceae family. As beetles become nourished in the spring, their lustrous color appears and they begin to mate. One could imagine that the color is used for mate attraction since it is unlikely that they turn that color to put on a show for me! Eggs are laid on host plants in May and June. They hatch within two weeks depending on the weather. The larvae begin to feed and develop through July. Once the larvae mature, they will adhere themselves to a leaf and pupate, much like lady bugs do. The next generation of adults emerges in late summer and early fall to start the whole cycle again.

The golden tortoise beetle is not a local native, but no one knows when, where or who introduced them to the Pacific Northwest. In Whatcom County, I have only collected the beetles on hedge bindweed, *Calystegia sepium*. The golden tortoise beetle feeds on many species in the family Convolvulaceae, such as morning glories and sweet potatoes. Both the adults and larvae feed on foliage. Adult feeding damage looks much like multiple shot holes in the leaf. Young larvae tend to skeletonize the leaves at first but will produce larger shot holes in the leaf as they grow.

Since the golden tortoise beetle eats bindweed, will it control it in my garden? Not reliably, nor effectively. Bindweed is such a vigorous grower that the feeding damage caused by the beetles is marginal in impacting the over all plant health. However, during my first summer in Whatcom County, I collected golden tortoise beetles like crazy and released them into bindweed blanketing my yard. I began collecting in early spring when I first noticed the adults. By June, both the adults and the voracious larvae were at work on the bindweed foliage. That year, we had such extremely hot temperatures in late June that the bindweed collapsed before going to seed. Perhaps the extensive feeding by the adults assisted the collapsing of the vines. It sure seemed like they did contribute to the bindweed's demise because bindweed still proliferated in nearby yards. However, the bindweed came back in its usual tenacious might the next year, barely dented by the previous year's dieback.

Whether you want to try and control your own bindweed or you just want to enjoy the beautiful beetles in your yard, go ahead and grab infested leaves when you pass them around town. I bet you'll end up like me and feeling those mixed feelings of dread and excitement when the bindweed begins to sprout every spring.

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

# Spartina

*Spartina alterniflora*, *Spartina anglica*, *Spartina densiflora*, *Spartina patens*



**THREAT:** There are several types of spartina of concern in Washington State. All are saltwater grasses capable of invading shallow coastal areas. *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass) and *Spartina patens* (saltmeadow cordgrass) are native to the Atlantic coast of North America. *Spartina densiflora* is native to South America, while *Spartina anglica* is a hybrid between *S. alterniflora* and a cordgrass native to England. Of these species, *S. alterniflora* is the most common in Washington while the other three are more restricted. Depending on the species, spartina grows from above the spring high tide line to about 6 feet below mean high water. On the west coast, spartina invades tidelands, forming grass stands that exclude all other vegetation. The dense root systems trap sediments, changing the elevation of the tidelands. The entire ecosystem of the tidelands can be disrupted, impacting shellfish, fish and bird habitat, native vegetation and water drainage. These plants spread both vegetatively (except for *S. densiflora*) and by seeds, which are spread by water. Spartina was introduced through contaminated ballast water, as a packing material for oyster spats and/or by intentional plantings for erosion control. Although not yet known from Whatcom County, spartina is present in adjoining counties and in British Columbia.



**DESCRIPTION:** The four spartina species of concern are all deep-rooted perennial grasses which grow in salt water areas. These plants can be difficult to identify. Contact the local weed board to assist with the identification of any suspicious or invasive grasses found in coastal areas, especially any grass growing on tidal mudflats. Spartina stems sprout from the root system in the spring, and depending on the species, can grow from less than 1 foot to 6 feet tall. These plants reproduce both by whitish rhizomes (except *S. densiflora*) and by seed, flowering from June to September. However, plants do not necessarily flower every year, and some do not flower for long periods of time. Depending on the species and age of the infestation, plants can occur as single tussocks, in spartina meadows or in circular spreading patches.

**MANAGEMENT OPTIONS:** Spartina can be controlled using mechanical and chemical means. Small infestations can be hand dug but care must be taken to remove as many as the roots as can be located. Hand digging can create disposal problems due to the large amount of sediment (usually mud) that must be removed with the roots; this material must be removed to upland areas, away from the intertidal zone. Covering plants with black plastic has also been used successfully for small infestations. The covering should be put in place in spring, securely held in place over and beyond the infestation, and left in place for at least one year. Repeated mowing can also be used to weaken plants in small infestations, and to prevent seed formation. Mowing can be used in combination with chemical treatments for larger areas. In Washington, aquatic application of herbicides can only be done by licensed applicators. Currently, there are state programs addressing the control of spartina. Contact the weed board for information on these programs or chemical control. Permits may be required for spartina removal projects planned in aquatic habitats.



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

## Cement Leaf Workshop:

The cement leaf making workshop will be at Karen Gilliam's house on July 20 from 9:00 until 12:00 noon. Please pay \$8.00 to Karen to enroll in the workshop. Her phone number is 360/384-4562. Supplies you will need to bring are a stiff board 2' X 2' or larger(it will need to lay flat in your car to take your leaf home), a plastic sheet to cover the board, gloves, and a face mask. Don't fret if you are unable to attend this one. We will try to have a second workshop at a later date.

## Thyme to take Cuttings!!!!!!!!!!

The plant sale and greenhouse committees would like you to take note, please.....

Now, summer through early fall, is the best time to take cuttings from shrubs and vines for propagation. For reference, check the Master Gardener library for "Creative Propagation" or other reference books. To take your cuttings, use clean pruners and dip the cutting in rooting hormone with fungicide. Place the cutting in damp rooting medium, sand, vermiculite or the like. If possible, cover with clear plastic top of some sort to create a greenhouse effect. Keep warm but out of the sun. Check periodically for moisture and developing roots. Do not allow to dry out. You do not need to fertilize at this time.

If you have no space or materials to take your cuttings, you may come to the Hovander greenhouse on Wednesday or Saturday mornings during work parties. Bring your plants or cut material and we will assist you. Always remember to label and date your cuttings.

Here is a list of suggested plants to take cuttings from for our plant sale next year. You may have others available. Try some new or favorite shrub. Experiment. Go ahead. Just do it!

hardy fuchsia, viburnum, hydrangea, jasmine, forsythia, honeysuckle, wisteria, pieris, deutzia, hibiscus, lavatera, cotoneaster, spiraea, mock orange, herbs, willows, daphne, pyracantha, escallonia, callicarpa, skimmia, ceanothus, flowering currant, rhodie, currants, gooseberries, grape, red and yellow twig dogwood, rose, magnolia, holly, weigela.

## Hovander Happenings

~David Simonson

As we get to midseason at the demonstration garden, we still need volunteers to assist with our projects. This year we have added the "maize maze" which requires our attention, also. Volunteer turnout has been somewhat erratic with as many as 20 and as few as one!

We have been able to keep our Hovander projects looking great and we are now looking forward to enjoying the summer garden activities, including harvests and "taste-testing." Several of our MG members have had their first taste of giant purple kohlrabi—how good can life get!

Workdays are Wednesday and Saturday, 9 till noon, and will continue through October.

## 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:

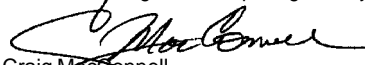
- a. TAUGHT a class, a workshop, a clinic, a course, seniors at a retirement home, or kids on an outing.
- b. WRITTEN a book, a poem, an article, a newsletter column.
- c. SPOKEN to a group or children, a garden club, class of Master Gardeners, the public,
- d. Spent far too many hours to count each 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.



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:

- July 1 ..... 10 a.m. to noon ..... **Monthly Foundation Board Meeting**  
Extension Office
- July 5 ..... All Day ..... **July 4th Holiday Observed**  
Extension office will be closed
- July 8 ..... 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
- Tuesdays ..... 1 to 4 p.m. .... **Bellingham Library Clinic**
- Wed. & Sat. .... 9 a.m. to noon ..... **Hovander Work Parties**
- Thursdays ..... 3 to 6 p.m. .... **Everson Public Library Clinic**