



WSU Master Gardener Volunteers

Snohomish County (425) 338-2400
MG Hotline (425) 357-6010
600 128th St. SE, Everett WA 98208

September 2006

Things to Do 🌻 Places to Go 🌻 People to See 🌻

(All meetings held at McCollum Park Training Center, unless otherwise noted)

Deadline for October newsletter is September 20th

- Sept. 1-4** **Evergreen State Fair Clinic**
- Sept. 1-29** **Jennings Demo Garden Work Days**
Mon, Tue, Fri, Sat The Jennings schedule is posted in the garden shed. For reference or changes call **Sue Schumacher** at 425.327.9412 or check the schedule. Please remember your work days, everyone depends on you.
10am-2pm
- Sept. 4** **Labor Day Holiday** Office is closed.
- September 6** **McCollum Demo Garden Work Day**
Wednesday *See related article.*
10am-2pm
- September 7-8** **2006 Master Gardener Annual Conference** The conference will be at the South Seattle Community College at 6000 16th Ave. SW, Seattle.
- September 9** **JVM Demo Garden Work Day**
Saturday *See related article.*
9am-1pm
- September 9** **Evergreen Arboretum & Garden Work Day**
Saturday *See related article.*
10am-2pm
- September 13** **Perennial Study Group I**
Wednesday The topic is **Verbascum**. To be held at the home of **Joyce Vaughn**.
10am-Noon *See related article. 2 CE credits.*
- September 13** **JVM Demo Garden Work Day**
Wednesday *See related article.*
10am-2pm
- September 13** **Bug Basics 101 – Introduction to Insect ID**
Wednesday *See related article.*
6 :30-9 :30pm
- September 14** **Bug Basics 101 – Introduction to Insect ID**
Thursday *See related article.*
9:30a-12:30pm

- September 15 Weed Herbarium Group**
Friday
9am-noon
MGs welcome to participate and learn about weed identification.
2 CE Credits
- September 19 Perennial Study Group IV**
Tuesday
6:30-8:30pm
The topic is **Ornamental Grasses**. To be held at the Snohomish Library at 311 Maple St.
- September 19 Master Gardener Foundation Meeting**
Tuesday
9:30am
Meet in the Evergreen Room at McCollum Park.
- September 20 Elizabeth Miller Botanical Garden Tour**
Wednesday
9am at McCollum
See related article.
- September 20 Perennial Study Group II**
Wednesday
10am-Noon
The topic is **Kniphofia**. To be held at the home of **John Marsh**.
See related article. 2 CE credits.
- September 20 JVM Demo Garden Work Day**
Wednesday
10am-2pm
See related article.
- Sept. 25-29 Clean up week at Jennings Park**
See related article.
- September 26 Perennial Study Group III**
Tuesday
7-9pm
The topic is **Hepatica**. To be held at the home of **Peggy Mainer**.
See related article. 2 CE credits.
- September 30 JVM Demo Garden Work Day**
Saturday
9am-1pm
See related article.
- October 2 MG Office Clinic starts Winter Schedule**
Monday
10am-2pm

Notes from Jan

Thanks to everyone for submitting your nominee for Master Gardener of the Year. We have so many great and dedicated volunteers that it's hard to choose just one! You will find out who was chosen on October 25. *See Recognition Banquet for more information.*

Notes from Sharon

What's up?

We now have three active yellowjacket colonies in McCollum Park. Two were substantially set back by our efforts to control them; the third is hidden in the salal brush in the area between the office and the upper parking lot. It is clear there is a nest because the yellowjackets are flying in and out much like planes at the airport. Foraging yellowjackets may be pesky but it's those defending the HOME that get

really aggressive. They sense shadows, your presence and the veritable shaking of the earth as you walk by. Avoid the skinny dirt path through the salal on the way from the upper office. Yellowjackets willing, I'll ring the area with pink tape as a warning.

I'm hoping to meet you all (some for the first time) at the WSU Master Gardener Conference. I'll be teaching one of the classes on Beneficial Insects and attending all the courses on managing the program. Your choices aren't so clear cut, and I know it will be difficult to make the choice. Divide and conquer by splitting up to take different classes and sharing notes and handouts.

By the time you read this, I will have attended the Farwest Show in Portland. I'll be teaching a pest section on some of the lesser pests we don't often cover. I'll also be wearing out my shoes on the 2 floors of the trade show meeting producers, nursery owners and checking out pest management products.

Once again many thanks to all of you who are keeping up the Demo Gardens, donating food to those in need, teaching in classes, clinics and gardens and taking on special projects. When you visit the Fairgrounds, take special note of the entry. With **Lois Brown's** help, we interspersed ornamental plants among the crop plants to fully integrate the nursery sector of agriculture at the fair. Looks pretty cool between Kimi's planting of crops (Kimi is the fair superintendent for the Focus on Farming area) and Lois's way with plant combinations.

Education

Learn the fundamentals of **Pest Management** in classes offered this fall in Everett.

Bug Basics series— sign up for one or more topics

101 – Introduction to Insect Identification

Sept 13, 6:30-9:30pm or Sept 14, 9:30am-12:30pm

102 – Insect Identification & Life Cycles

Oct 10, 6:30-9:30pm or Oct 11, 9:30am-12:30pm

103 – Monitoring and Managing Insects

Nov 7, 6:30-9:30pm or Nov 8, 9:30am-12:30pm

104 – Stored Product Pests

Nov 28, 6:30-9:30pm or Nov 29, 9:30am-12:30pm

Choose between the evening and morning session for each course.

Earn 3 WSDA Recertification credits for each topic attended.

Rodent Management

Saturday, Oct. 28 from 10am to 12 Noon

Earn 2 WSDA Recertification credits.

WHERE: WSU Snohomish County Extension

Cougar Auditorium

600 128 St SE, Everett, WA 98208-6353

COST: \$35 per class- (includes materials, lab, and WSDA credits)

The Pest Management courses offer students an introduction to identification techniques and hands-on practice in identifying, monitoring and managing pests using integrated pest management (IPM) practices. Participants will include greenhouse and nursery professionals, farmers, pest management specialists and home gardeners. Course presenters: Sharon J. Collman, WSU Extension Educator and Entomologist, and Dave Pehling, Zoologist specializing in insect and animal pests. Participants can earn WSDA Recertification credits.

To register:

CALL: WSU Snohomish County Extension
(425) 338-2400, ext. 5500

For additional information:

VISIT: <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/calendar.htm>

CONTACT: Peggy Campbell
Education Coordinator
WSU Snohomish County Extension
(425) 357-6024
campbellp@wsu.edu

Roster Updates

Please make the following additions or changes to your roster:

New Email: **Julie Borrows** julieannebee@comcast.net
 Janet Daly monpodaly@comcast.net

Recognition Banquet

By Lois Brown

Mark your calendar (October 25th) for the annual MG recognition banquet. It's Harvest Time in the garden and also the time that MGs reap their awards for a job well done.

This is an evening affair complete with a catered dinner and a drawing for many garden related items. The Master Gardener of the Year will be announced as well as recognition of the many hours and contributions of others in the program.

In the spirit of fellowship, sixteen of your fellow Master Gardeners have volunteered their china and table presentations to create a transformation of the training room.

You and your significant other are invited to join us in this celebration evening. **RSVP** by email to **Jan** or call the **MG Hotline**.

Should you wish to contribute we are looking for garden donations for the raffle and desserts to top off the evening. Please contact **Lois Brown** at Bruceb33@aol.com or telephone (425) 353-9636.

Tours

By Cauleen Eshleman

Elizabeth Miller Botanical Garden-Sept.20 – 10am, Seattle

Last group tour of the season. Limited to 15 people and 4 cars so carpooling is required. Meet at McCollum at 9am, leaving at 9:15am sharp. \$5 fee is suggested for educational purposes.

There are still a few spaces available on our English Garden Tour for May 21st- June 4th, 2007. It is a fantastic tour visiting beautiful gardens, historic sites and the famous Chelsea Flower Show. For more information please contact Dee Montpetit with Carlson Canyon Park Travel at 1-866-835-8817 or e-mail bill.dee@verizon.net.

Community Clinics

By Sheila McKinnon

There will be an End-of-Season Clinic Coordinators Meeting in the Evergreen Room at the Extension Office on Saturday, Oct 7th from 10am - 1pm. Coordinators, please mark your calendars and confirm if you are available if you haven't already done so.

Agenda for the meeting:

- Discuss any recommended changes the Coordinators might have for 2007
- Confirm the clinic locations and dates (and skipped dates) for 2007
- Confirm the coordinators' willingness to continue in your positions
- Collectively do a clinic box inventory of all books and publications
- Discuss any other ideas, suggestions or concerns as a group

Veteran sign-ups begin in December so I need to have all the coordinators and dates lined up and ready to send out by the end of November. Thank you all for your hard work. I think it's been a very successful year.

Jennings Demo Garden

By Al Dralle

We are going along well and all is in full bloom. Come visit. We have lots of vegetables for the food bank this summer

We have one more month of garden work and then we shut it down. We will have a week long party from September 25th to the 29th. Come and join us. We will rent a big chipper and make compost that week. Pizza on Friday.

WSU Demo Garden at the Evergreen Arboretum

By John Marsh

Fortunately it wasn't a dry, dusty day, because we sure would have stirred up the dust on Wednesday, August 16 at the Master Gardeners' demonstration garden at Legion Park! Thirteen eager volunteers showed up that work day to weed, dig, transplant, and stake.

A great big cephalaria had flopped year after year, being staked again and again, but it just didn't hold itself up, and doesn't look nice all lashed and roped and still flopping despite all of our efforts. It had more than a fair chance, and blew it. We divided it up, but for some reason, no one wanted to take home any divisions. The individual flowers look like a yellow-green pin cushion flower, and the leaves are bold and healthy-looking. It turned out to be a lesson for us.

Sometimes it is better to cut your losses and go on.

The same thing can be said of the big ole campanula with pale blue bell flowers. We had tried staking it up early in the year, knowing that it always fell apart, to preempt that from happening. But what is the use of fooling around with an unsatisfactory plant year after year? It got dug up too, and divided, and some people did take divisions of it home. We transplanted a Disanthus just a few feet to bring it up into the view better, and people said, "Where did that come from?" We moved a Spigelia back from the shade of the birch tree into the Disanthus' old spot, sunnier and with more room to grow.

These wonderful people worked little miracles all over the garden:

Thea Weczorek, Ann Ramos, Char Burns, Darlene Granberg, Kristi Uvence, Roy Johnson, Geri Johnson, Nellie Butterfield, Tim Gallacher, Al Call, Peggy Geiger, Jee Young Lee, and Ruth Hansing.

The next work party will be on **Saturday, September 9th**, although I can't believe that it will be September already!

McCollum Demo Garden

By Mary Kay Talbot

We had a relatively cool and cloudy day for the August work party at McCollum Park. It was good weather for transplanting some new shrubs in the garden. There is a new *Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps'* next to the garden sign; and a new *Osmanthus x burkwoodii* and an *Ilex crenata 'Convexa'* on either side of the walkway to the education building door. Many, many thanks to the Edmonds Community College Horticulture Department nursery for donating these lovely plants to our garden.

Many hearty thanks also go to the hardworking crew that day, including veterans **Bill Baxter** and **Norm Lynds**, who dug out old roots and helped get the new shrubs planted, and veterans **Becky Gurka**, **Sue Mayberry**, **Carolyn Minckler**, and **Lisa Tuckett**. Also joining us were interns **Anita Magby**, **Ann Ramos**, and **Thea Weczorek**. A special thanks to those who are putting in hours at McCollum Park separate from the work parties, particularly for watering; including interns **Penny Talbot** and **Julene Wright**, and veteran **Rebecca Ripley**.

The next work party will be on **Wednesday, September 6th**, from **10 am - 2 pm**. Hope you can join us!

Perennial Study Group I

By Jennifer Forsch

Our August meeting at **Marylou Hart's** home in Everett was very well attended, and **Marian Hanson** did an admirable job addressing the topic: Lilies. Several specimens were presented, and in addition to the botanical and cultural information discussed we were reminded of one more use for duct tape: removing lily pollen from fabric.

Our next meeting will be **September 13th** at **Joyce Vaughn's** home in Edmonds. **Michele Duncan** will lead a discussion of *Verbascum*. If you are not a member of the group and would like to attend, please call Joyce at 425 776 7510 a few days in advance to see if there is space available. As usual, members please call Joyce as far in advance as possible if you will be unable to attend.

Driving directions to her home at **812 Maple Street, Edmonds, 98020**:

From I-5 South take Exit #179 or the 220th St SW exit, staying in the right lane. Head west to the second light, turning right onto 66th Ave W, and continue to 212th St SW. Turn left onto 212th and continue (across Aurora) approximately 1.1 miles until you reach Five Corners. Bear slightly left onto Bowdoin and continue on Walnut to 9th Ave. Turn right at the light on 9th and go two short blocks to Maple Street. Turn left on Maple and go down the hill. Joyce's house is located second from the corner on the left.

Perennial Study Group II

By Carol Anderson

The **September 20** meeting will be held at **John Marsh's** home. **Laura Wild** will present the topic "Asters". John lives at 6315 Tulalip Shores Road. (360-659-2931)

Directions to John's house: From I-5 take Exit 199 (Marysville-Tulalip Exit) and turn west onto Marine Drive. Stay on Marine Drive approximately 8 miles then turn left at Tulalip Shores Road. Go to the 4th driveway on the right then turn left at the "Y" in the driveway. From Stanwood go south on Marine Drive and take a right at Tulalip Shores Road and proceed as above.

Perennial Study Group III

By Julie Newnam

PSG III's next meeting will be Tuesday, **September 26th** at **7:00 p.m.** at **Peggy Mainer's** home in the Ballard/Crown Hill area of Seattle. Peggy will present on the topic, Hepatica. Please call Peggy at 206-781-5182 if you need driving directions.

Perennial Study Group IV

By Becky Gurka

The **September 19th** meeting will be held at the Snohomish Library at 311 Maple St. from 6:30 to 8:30pm. The topic will be Ornamental Grasses.

Foundation News

By Martha Clatterbaugh

The next foundation meeting will be September 19 at 9:30am.at McCollum Park.

Notes of Interest

Denise Day is the "MG Sunshine Lady", therefore, if you know of anyone that needs cheering up, sympathy, etc., please let Denise know and she will send a card.

MG Hotline

(425) 357-6010

Jan's Direct Line**Email**

(425) 357-6001rainsber@wsu.edu

Sharon's Direct Line**Email**

(425) 357-6025collmans@wsu.edu

Jenette (Hort Sec)**Email**

(425) 338-2400elane@cahnrs.wsu.edu

State MG Web Site

<http://mastergardener.wsu.edu>

Prepared by Jan Rainsberger

Sharon J. Collman

WSU Extension Agent

[September Newsletter]

PSG I

LILIUM – Showy, exotic-looking lilies are among the most dramatic flowers grown in gardens. For many years, only the species (growing wild in parts of Asia, Europe and North America) were available. Many of these were difficult and unpredictable. Around 1925, breeders began to come up with hybrids that were healthier, hardier and easier to grow than the original species. Lilies have blossoms of generous proportions 6 to 12 inches across (although some are only 2 to 4 inches across) in single flowers on up to as many as 50 flowers on a stalk. Some have magnificent fragrance. The flowers have 6 petal-like tepals in star, cup, bowl, bell, and trumpet or funnel shapes. Some are recurved or reflexed with tepals that curve back toward the stem. Their color may be white, orange, hot pinks, yellows, reds, creams, pastels (but not blues), and many have spots, stripes, blends or bi-colors. They make great cut flowers, but cut off the pollen-bearing anthers to prevent stains. Their narrow lanced-shaped leaves can be whorled or singles up the length of 1½" to 8 foot stalks. Lilies grow from soft bulbs made up of scales that do not tolerate drying out and are easily damaged. Buy plump bulbs and plant ASAP in fall or early spring, as lily bulbs aren't completely dormant when they are shipped. Injury can lead to fungal infections, so cut off damage and treat with a fungicide before planting. Never acquire bulbs from the wild, as they are being depleted by collectors, pollution and development. Some lilies are rhizomatous forming extensive mats, and some may be stoloniferous developing new bulbs or shoots on horizontal stolons or stems. Lilies require deep, loose, well-drained soil with ample organic material added. Plant the bulbs with their tops at a depth of 2 to 3 times the height of the bulb. (Exceptions are *L. candidum* and *L. x testaceum* that need only 1" of soil.) If the soil contains plenty of organic matter these plants should not need a lot of feeding. Apply a slow-release 5-10-10 granular fertilizer (or bone meal) as growth starts and again just before flowering. Most prefer full sun (although a spot with a little shade during the hottest part of the day will help prolong blooms). Their roots should be mulched and shaded (plant among other perennials and shrubs). Some woodland types thrive in partial shade. Shelter plants from strong winds, stake taller varieties and give plenty of moisture during the growing season. Bulbs will rot if the soil remains too wet, however, especially in the winter. Deadhead promptly, but you can let species lilies set some seeds. Seed produced bulbs are virus-free even if the plant they come from was infected. Hybrids generally don't come true from seed. Cut back to moderate watering once dormancy begins (leaves turn yellow), but never let the bulbs go completely dry. In the fall, after foliage has died, cut back the main stem to near ground level (don't compost). If plants decline after a few years, carefully dig and divide them (used for stoloniferous or rhizomatous bulbs). Scaling is a good way to get a plant that resembles its parent. Propagation can also be accomplished by bulbils (looks like a small dark pea and is produced on stem above ground on a few species and cultivars) and bulblets (formed on the underground part of plant and can be encouraged by deep planting of stem rooting lilies). Pests include slugs, snails, deer, groundhogs, voles, rabbits, gophers and the bright red or orange lily beetle that is devastating lily beds in the Northeast and spreading rapidly. Fungal and viral diseases can be a problem. Avoid over-watering, allow good air circulation and drainage and control aphids. Dig and destroy stunted plants or plants with yellow leaves, as this is a sign of viral infection. Most problems result from poor cultivation or unsuitable growing conditions.

Asiatic Hybrids (Div. 1) – 4 to 6" early to midsummer flowers on 2 to 5' plants. Flowers point up, out or down, non-fragrant, in wide range of colors (orange, yellow, red, pink, cream, white) solid color, two-toned and many with spots. They seldom need staking and are vigorous, long-lived plants that form clumps in the right site (well-drained soil in full sun). Zones 3 to 8.

Martagon Hybrids (Div. 2) – (Turk's-cap Lily) bears racemes of nodding 2 to 4" flowers with recurved petals, early to midsummer, on 3 to 6' plants. Flowers come in white, purple-pink with dark spots, orange-yellow flushed with pink, etc. Many have an unpleasant scent. They grow in full sun to partial shade and tolerate a wide range of well-drained soils, from acid to slightly alkaline. Zones 3 to 8.

Candidum Hybrids (Div. 3) – (Madonna Lily) 2 to 5" early to midsummer fragrant flowers, in clusters of 5 to 20, on 3 to 6' plants. Blooms in deep red, yellow-orange, pale yellow to tan. Plant with no more than 1" of soil over the top of the bulbs, in neutral to slightly alkaline soil. When planted in fall, they produce a low clump of evergreen leaves before winter. Zones 4 to 9.

American Hybrids (Div. 4) – Bears cluster of 4 to 6" flowers with recurved or sometimes funnel-shaped flowers on 4 to 8' plants. Flower colors vary (yellow-orange, buttercup yellow with maroon spots, etc.). Plants require acid soil rich in organic matter, partial shade is best, especially during the hottest part of the day. Zones 5 to 8.

Longiflorum Hybrids (Div. 5) – Early to midsummer fragrant white 7" long trumpets on 1½ to 3½' plants. They tolerate alkaline soil. The species (Easter Lily) is not considered a garden plant (hardy only in zones 7 to 9 so usually grown in pots). The cultivar 'Mount Everest' can be grown in partial shade in zones 5 to 8.

Trumpet and Aurelian Hybrids (Div. 6) – Mid to late summer flowers borne in clusters, usually fragrant, and generally face outward or are nodding. Flowers may come in trumpet-shaped, bowl-shaped, flat-faced or recurved blooms. Colors include red, pink, gold, yellow, orange, white, and may have purple-red, brown or green on the outside. Plants range from 4 to 8' tall and usually require staking. Zones 4 to 8.

Oriental Hybrids (Div. 7) – Mid to late summer, showy fragrant flowers that can reach up to 10" across. Flowers may come in bowl-shaped, flat faced, trumpet-shaped or recurved blooms. Colors include white, pink, rose-red, dark maroon-red, and many feature yellow stripes or red spots. Plants range from 2 to 8' tall and many need staking. Zones 4 to 8.

Other Hybrids (Div. 8) – Catchall division of hybrids that have parents in more than one division. Zones 5 to 8/

Species (Div. 9) – Includes all true species.

[September NL]

PSG II

By Carol Anderson

Members of the study group discussed the topic of kniphofia on August 16 at the home of **Dick Weakley**. Kniphofia, commonly called poker plant, belongs to the family of liliaceae. The plants have grass-like, finely toothed foliage and produce flowers in colors ranging from coral red through every conceivable shade of orange, peach and yellow to near-white and light green. They vary in height from 1-½ feet to 6 ft. They require adequate water when blooms are forming and will fail to bloom if conditions are too dry. The group plans to re-visit this topic at a later date.

[September 2006]

PSG III

By Julie Newnam

Perennial Study Group III met on July 25th when **Marilyn Errey** presented information on **Phygelius**. The group met at **Kay Lewis's** home. **Cauleen Eshleman** provided refreshments.

Phygelius (Fy-GEE-lee-us), commonly called Cape fuchsia or Cape figwort, is a stellar perennial with tubular blooms from midsummer to fall in dusky shades of mauve, deep coral, yellow and red. Its common name comes from drooping, fuchsia-like flowers dangling from graceful, architectural branches. It provides an accent of flowers on erect stems, with soft gray-green foliage and offers structural interest to mixed borders.

Semi-evergreen in milder climates, phygelius is treated as a perennial in most Northwest gardens. It will die back with the arrival of frost and return in early spring.

Phygelius grows in Zones 7 – 10 and matures to a size of 2' to 6' x 2' to 4'.

When, Where, and How to Plant

Phygelius should be planted 3' apart in spring, early summer, or fall, in full-to-partial sun and in fertile, moist, well-drained soil. It thrives in heat but requires regular moisture. Soggy locations need to be avoided. Here they are grown as perennials since they can be killed to the ground and will resprout from the roots. For extra winter protection, a site against a south facing wall, with a covering of dry mulch such as salt hay or weed free straw, is suggested.

Propagation

Seeds can be sown indoors 6-8 weeks before the last spring frost date at 70°-75°F. Germination takes about 2 weeks. Plants also can be propagated in spring either by cuttings or by carefully digging up suckers that appear around the plants.

Growing Tips

Plants must be watered regularly until established. They dislike dry conditions; irrigation must occur during extended dry periods. Fertilization is typically not needed. A 2-inch layer of organic mulch helps retain moisture at the root level.

Care

Pests or diseases generally do not bother phygelius. Here it should be treated as an herbaceous perennial (cut back to ground for winter with protective mulch added and refreshed in early spring). It can be protected from harsh temperatures and wind by being planted against a southern or western facing wall or in a sheltered area. Phygelius spreads by suckers; unwanted sections can be removed by cutting through underground stems.

Companion Planting and Design

Any border of hot-colored blooms will welcome Phygelius for its vibrant palette and delicate, tubular flowers. Suggested combinations include: Phygelius + the yellow-blooming form with red-hot poker + vivid orange-red 'Fireglow' euphorbia for a sun-loving display; or mauve and dark pink flowered phygelius + tropical or bold foliage, including the pink striped New Zealand flax and plum striped cannas. Phygelius is an excellent container plant, pairing well with yellow and cream striped carex and burgundy sweet potato vine. It is also great in a shrub border and mixed plantings. Its flowers attract hummingbirds.

Bibliography

Phillips, Roger & Martyn Rix. 1991. *The Random House Book of Perennials Vol 2 Late Perennials*. New York: Random House, Inc.

Prinzing, Debra & Mary Robson. 2004. *Washington and Oregon Gardener's Guide Proven Plants for Inspired Gardens*. Cool Springs Press.

Rice, Graham. 1996. *The Complete Book of Perennials*. Reed International Books Ltd.

Tenenbaum, Frances. 2003. *Taylor's Guides Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*. Houghton Mifflin Co.