

# Plant Amnesty ▲▲▲

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FALL 2007

## Perennial Maintenance for Beginners – Part I

by Cass Turnbull

*(The following is the first of three parts. The original article first appeared in the Arboretum Bulletin.)*

I'm certainly no expert on perennials. About the time I was going to sign up for the perennials class at Horticulture School, I started PlantAmnesty and was dragged into the trees instead. Nevertheless, as a working maintenance gardener, I've spent several years knocking around in other people's perennial beds, or more accurately in their "mixed borders" (in addition to perennials, "mixed borders" contain shrubs, sub-shrubs, self seeding annuals, silk flowers, lounging cats, gazing globes and anything else that might make things look better for a longer period of time). Last year I took on a client so utterly naïve in the subject (he had just acquired a new home and garden) that I realized I could act as a coach to the very new. In fact, I don't consider myself an expert in gardening, or pruning for that matter. But I may be a specialist in helping people who are new to the subject. Yeah, that's it. I'm a perpetual beginner put on earth to explain to the neophyte that which is obvious to the initiated.

### What is a perennial?

First off, how about a definition of "perennial"? I remember asking my mentor this question and getting a little lecture on the life cycles of perennial flowers vs. annuals. What I really needed to know was that annuals (things like petunias, marigolds and impatiens) are bought in the nursery in spring, planted in the ground or in pots where they grow up in a month and bloom their heads off continually until frost, at which time you yank them out and throw them away. Planting your first pot of annuals is very gratifying and the cause of many people getting hooked on gardening.

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*Happy Halloween!*

## Tale of Horror: Kitsap Judge Orders Tree Topping

Most local tree services, city personnel and even much of the public have now heard that tree topping is not a form of pruning. It is, in fact, a sort of consumer fraud—achieving none of the purported goals, while creating a host of problems. Not only is it bad for trees, it can cause them to become unsafe, shorten their life spans, and create a maintenance nightmare for the tree owner. Since trees increase their growth rate in response to topping cuts, it doesn't even work to keep them significantly smaller!

But people in the legal profession, and those charged with enforcing the law, seem not to have heard the verdict on tree topping. Take the case of Kitsap County **Judge Leila Mills**, who recently ordered the topping of more than one hundred alders and bigleaf maples, some cut in half or more. This was done to accommodate two uphill neighbors' desire for a more expansive water view. To make matters worse, the trees are in an ecologically sensitive area. The County agencies charged with protecting trees in these circumstances—and asked to do so by the tree owners—were conspicuously silent. It is a sad fact that, all over Puget Sound that, anti-topping laws are weakly enforced, if at all. You can almost see them shrug their shoulders in resignation.

PlantAmnesty asserts that laws, covenants and agreements which mandate the topping or removal of trees for the purpose of creating or maintaining water views are inherently bad.

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## Perennial Maintenance for Beginners – Part I

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Perennials, on the other hand, get planted and live in their bed forever, dying back to ground in the winter and returning in the spring. But they usually bloom for a short period of time, short meaning a month or two. The number of satisfactory flowering annuals seems pretty limited, but the number of perennials is almost infinite, making perennial bed gardening more “challenging” (a term all gardeners know, is code for “difficult and rewarding”). Annuals are, in the great unspoken horticultural hierarchy, a lesser class of plants than perennials. They had almost dropped off the list of desirable plants when the “coleus and New Zealand flax” revolution blew the lid off



*Annual and Perennial*

KA

of planting in pots. We are having fun in pots once again, impressing each other with wild and wonderful combinations that last all season long.

**Maintaining perennial beds**

But back to your perennial bed. First you need to know that when you see that magazine photo or visit that garden—all glorious in its abundance of foliage and flowers—you are seeing it at its peak. For half of the year, our winter, it’s mostly gone! And behind the scenes is an incredible amount of work—staking, grooming, relocation, staking, division, weeding, baiting, grooming, cutting back and staking. Did I mention staking? But making and tending perennial beds is, after all, a horticultural addiction of the highest order.

And if you came back to that same garden three years later you would see something wholly different. I often tell people that making a garden is more like riding a horse than building a table. Gardens keep moving and changing as the plants grow up. It’s an ongoing process, not something to be finished. Beds get larger, some plants get shaded out, and the garden must be weeded, mulched and adjusted regularly. Perennial bed maintenance is more like riding wild horses,

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## PlantAmnesty

PO Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0377  
(206) 783-9813 (206) 529-8023 (fax)  
www.plantamnesty.org  
E-mail: info@plantamnesty.org

### Mission Statement

*To end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs caused by mal-pruning (and other common forms of plant mis-management).*

#### Goals:

1. Raise awareness of the problem.
2. Provide solutions (referral service, education, volunteer pruning and care), and ensure they are readily accessible to the public and green industry professionals.
3. Engender respect for plants.

#### We Affirm:

- That our organization is inclusive, tolerant, and based on grassroots collective action.
- That our educational materials are clear, current and technically accurate.
- That we will maintain a sense of humor and goodwill while being outspoken on the issues.

### Staff

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Referral Service Coordinator . . . . . Fran Bry  
Events & Referrals Assistant. . . . . Sherry Perrine  
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**Editorial Committee** Marsha Hicks, Joyce Lane & Cass Turnbull  
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**Circulation/Membership** Joyce Lane  
**Contributors** Joyce Lane, Sherry Perrine, Cass Turnbull  
**Photographers** Many and Various  
**Illustrations/Artwork** Kate Allen  
**Printing & Distribution** Consolidated Press

Please mail us articles, short jokes, artwork, tales, Adopt-A-Plant and Eco-Exchange information. The newsletter is a benefit of membership.

# Perennial Maintenance for Beginners – Part I

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standing up on their backs, without saddles, while they jump fences and streams, at night.

The old saying for perennials is, “The first year they sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap.” What they don’t tell you is that “the forth year they leap, and the fifth year they leap, and the sixth...” They crowd into their neighbors, shade out rhodies and conifers, show up inside other plants or in other areas of the yard. (I’ve often thought someone should develop a sort of “Richter Scale” for perennials, assigning a number to the relative aggressiveness in growth and inability to be controlled or removed.) Or, alternatively perennials may die a slow, sickly death. And some perennials develop holes in the center, and some stop blooming unless you divide them. Many are slug magnets. And some have to be deadheaded, and some get mildew. Did I mention staking? Perennials need a lot of attention, generally speaking.

The good news is that most perennials are really tough. They are, in fact, the masochists of the plant world. Most want to be dug up and torn apart. They like it. You can walk all over them if you like.

## Grooming

Perennials are just like people. They look great with practically no care in the springtime of their life, but as time goes on, they require more and more care just to look good. Usually by summer and certainly by the fall you will be spending a lot of time “grooming”. This is not as delicate an operation as it sounds. You might be using your hedge shears to shear off the spent brown flowers, or you might be shearing or cutting some

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*First Year Sleep*



*Second Year Creep*



*Third Year Leap*

moth-eaten, browned-out plant to the ground and you will be rewarded with a flush of bright new green growth and sometimes a second flowering. Do you remember how, as you worried some minor blemish or injury as a child, your mother warned “Don’t pick at it! You’ll just make it worse!”? Well, the opposite is true for perennials. Just go in that plant and start tugging on yellowing foliage, picking at brown stuff, raking it with your fingers. You’ll be surprised how much better it looks. It’s really quite gratifying. As the daylilies start to lose it, I’m in there gleefully yanking on the lower foliage, tossing heaps of leaves out to the lawn. And when they get really bad, they get sawn to the ground with a bread knife! Next month up comes a new set of foliage. Same is true with browned lady’s mantle, leaf-mined, dusty columbines, ragged hardy geraniums, and many others. In fact, whenever a perennial starts to brown out, including bulbs, I go at it with gusto. You don’t have to wait until the foliage is totally spent. In fact, I recommend you go at it early. Who can forget the incredible sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach when you put your hand on the slimy foliage of a long-gone hosta? My best advice is, “Cut early and cut often.” And always get the brown out. They’ll be fine.

Unfortunately, there are some exceptions to the “cut it back at will” rule. I wish these were listed somewhere too. So far, all I have is a mental list of those plants which want to be treated gently. By “gentle” I mean that the following plants need some special care when being transplanted, cut back or mulched: peonies, oriental and Asiatic lilies, grasses, sword ferns, hellebore, epimedium,

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## Welcome New Members

Betty Albright  
Carol Alex  
Sidney Andrews  
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of Natural Resources & Parks  
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Laura Holland  
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Paul Renda  
Nuria Ruiz  
R.D. Satterthwaite  
Doug & Judy Schliebus  
Jon Scott  
Joanne Stager  
Mary Steele  
Cynthia Stover  
Jill Strom  
Katherine Sweeney  
Emily Van Bronkhorst  
Ryan at Wesspur LLC  
Ruth Windhover  
Carl Woestwin of Seattle  
Pacific University  
Jackie Wydrowski

## Plant Activist Update

### Belltown Garden Tour

On Sunday, May 18th, PlantAmnesty hosted a walking tour of courtyard, container and rooftop gardens in Belltown. Our focus was size-appropriate trees and shrubs for small spaces and containers. The tour concept excited so much interest that we quickly sold out of the limited number of tickets and had to turn people away. Thirty lucky “tourists” were guided in three groups by the fabulous **Diedre Muns** of Florabunga, Horticulturalist **Julie Hale**, and Arborist **Jamie Roulette**. They also worked with **Cynthia Creasey**, PlantAmnesty supporter and Real Estate Agent, to make arrangements for the tour.

The groups met in cool and misty weather by the Wisteria arbor at the Belltown P-Patch. The 40-plot P-Patch is across the street from Belltown Cottage Park, a Historic Landmark that is the site of the last three single family homes in downtown Seattle. Artistic installations include a cross-sectional vegetable fence, a gothic entry gate, and a water fountain powered by sunshine. The public can wander around to admire the vegetable and flower gardens.

The first stop was the Growing Vine Street Project. Designed primarily by Belltown residents, SVR and Carlson Architects, the Project is part of a growing connection through the heart of Belltown, adding open space and greening this dense urban neighborhood. Storm water is recycled from the Beckoning Cistern, an artistic element of the building’s façade, into Cistern Steps, a marshy wetland-type garden. The tour groups met Buster Simpson, an artist famous for his interest in tackling urban problems. He designed many elements of Greening Vine Street, like the Beckoning Cistern and the quirky Verticle Landscape Downspouts seen on some Vine Street buildings.

Our fabulous hosts were **Howard Weiner**, who is Board President and one of the owners of the Bay Vista Tower Condominium, and **Bruce Bond**, who owns the company that cares for the condominium’s gardens. After touring the 19th floor gardens, they treated the groups to cookies and beverages in their high-rise recreation room.

Many thanks to **Marianna Clark** and **Sherry Perrine**, who volunteered their time to help the tour run smoothly.

### Fruit Tree Field Day

Twenty-two people attended this year’s Fruit Tree Field Day at Magnuson Park, surpassing our goal of 20 for the “Lite” version of this popular workshop. The day began cool and windy, but warmed up later. The students appreciated the intimate setting, lolling on a hillside while asking questions of the arborists.

The eight teachers who volunteered time from their busy schedules were knowledgeable and enthusiastic. A thousand thank you’s to **Greg Giuliani**, Vice President of Seattle Fruit Tree Society; **Favero Greenforest**, of Greenforest Inc.; **Bill Wanless** of Brooke Wanless Gardens; **M.P. Martin** of Biophile Gardens; **Andy Major** of Apical Tree Services; **Jonathan Schwartz** and **Emily Ross** of Ross and Schwartz; and **Pete Putnicki** of Putnicki Landscape Services. The teachers met at a local pub afterward to swap stories, marking the perfect ending to a terrific day.

## Plant Activist Update

**Marianna Clark** and **Cass Turnbull** are wonderful organizers, and made the event informative and fun. **Melcombe Forbes** and **Margaret Schroeter** were on hand to make sure set-up, registration, snacktime and clean-up all went smoothly, with the help of **Lacia Lynne Bailey**, our perennial go-to gal.

### June General Meeting

The room at the Center for Urban Horticulture overflowed with visitors for PlantAmnesty's Meeting of Like Minds on Tuesday, June 19th. **Phil Wood**, Seattle Times columnist and famous garden designer, gave a "before and after" slideshow entitled Dramatic Garden Changes. Buffet dishes were tantalizing, including a selection of gourmet and comfort foods, and everyone went back for seconds and desserts.

Thank you, **Joyce Lane**, PlantAmnesty Staff, for volunteering your time to help us greet and meet our guests and find more chairs.

## Mailbag

Hi Cass,

I am a member of PlantAmnesty and a garden designer by trade. A friend told me that she thought you'd be interested in our Ceanothus pruning experiment. In my garden I have a hedge of Ceanothus 'Victoria' along a walkway. We had let it go out of a regular pruning routine, so my husband decided to prune it hard on November 18th! I was sure he killed it, not only because it was the wrong time to hit it so hard, but also because it did not have one green leaf left on it by the time he was done. It was cut right to the bare wood that had been inside and away from the sunlight. (cuts ranged from one-quarter inch to one inch in diameter). So I whined that we would have to replace the whole hedge. I said we would give it a chance to recover into June, or I'd have to replace it, as it is front and center of our home and I have garden tours here throughout the summer.

Slowly—and I mean very slowly—it started to add little buds of leaves in April. Now in the first week in June, it looks rather nice. The lower branches are filling in and the tops are all filled in and green. I like to say I am surprised, and naturally, my husband relishes the fact that he won a bet that it would recover just fine this season.

Sue Goetz  
inspiring gardeners to create....[www.thecreativegardener.com](http://www.thecreativegardener.com)  
Gig Harbor, Washington



*Master Pruner Graduation: John Howe and Cass Turnbull*

## Perennial Maintenance for Beginners – Part I

euphorbia wulfenii, penstemons, poppies, artemesia, delphiniums, and perovskia. I'm hoping you will write to me with more, but only if your knowledge is taken from your personal experience and not from what you've read. I'm certain that the list of "special needs" perennials is—relative to the total number of those used in the garden—a small one. And remember, if you are not killing a few plants every year, you are not learning and growing personally as a gardener.

Books always recommend that you wait till fall or winter or spring to divide and move your perennials. But by then you will have no idea what was wrong with the way things were, or where exactly the plants are. And it will be rainy and cold and you will want to be inside doing other things. I like to move plants around while they are in bloom so I can see how they look. Duh! I tend to scoff at all the correct "timing" advice I hear, until I kill something, that is. Live and learn, or in these cases, kill and learn.

### Dividing

The same is true for all that dividing of plants that you are supposed to be doing. Is it really necessary? And does dividing really help your daylily bloom? Or keep your Sedum spectabilis 'Autumn Hoorah' from flopping? Or your ornamental grass? Maybe, maybe not. Mostly, I find myself dividing plants because they are getting way too huge. What I can tell you for certain is that dividing is a lot of work. Anyone who has had to divide a Siberian iris (they get dead spot in the middle) will tell you to bring a "jaws of life" to get

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## Thank You, Major Donors

*Denise Anderson and Marlis Korber*

## Garden Variety News

### Goodbye, Marcia



We are sad to announce that longtime friend of PlantAmnesty, **Marcia Brunner**, owner of Laser Services Inc, passed away on June 16, 2007. After a valiant fight, Marcia lost her third and final battle with cancer. Marcia was a near perfect person. She always went the extra mile to make sure our newsletter came out right and on time. Her cheery, helpful

disposition never gave way, even under intense pressure of cascading breakdowns. Aside from providing impeccable service as our newsletter gal, she contributed largely to the Phinney Community. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her, and our thoughts are with her family.

### Wollemi Pine is Available

Not long ago, a new tree was discovered in Australia: the Wollemi Pine (though it's not really a pine tree). Now it is ready to be sold worldwide. Here are the links that will give you more information and tell you how to order: <http://wollemipine.com> and <http://shop.nationalgeographic.com>.

### Congratulation Master Pruner Graduates

This June we graduated another batch of Master Pruners. Congratulations to **Trish Eden, Margaret Schroeter, John Howe, Lori Brakken, Sherry Perrine** and **Laura Watson**. You made the grade!



*Master Pruner Graduation: Trish Eden, Sherry Perrine, Margaret Schroeter, John Howe, Lori Brakken, Cass Turnbull.*

### Thank you, Donors

**Patricia Swerda**, longtime friend to PA, is moving. But before she goes, she's giving PlantAmnesty some more plants from her exquisite garden and a dandy little coffee pot to boot. A thank you is also in order to **Connie Knutson** for the warming trays, thus ending their very long run on the wish list.



*Tables full of Bingo Players and winners.*

### Kicking and Screaming into the Digital Age

Cass and PlantAmnesty go digital. I just wanted you to know that I have been successfully dragged, kicking and screaming, into the digital millennium. At long last, PlantAmnesty will be electronically up-to-date in a meaningful way. So, now we will be e-mailing you event and meeting notices, only with your permission of course! And, if you like, we can e-mail you your newsletter too. Wow! This saves both trees and money. But I thoroughly understand if you prefer instead to hold a paper copy in your hands, as do I. (I own a t-shirt that says, "Kill the Web"). Also we can (again with your permission) electronically send short descriptions of volunteer opportunities.

We will not give your e-mail address to anyone, either by mistake or on purpose. Those of you who have given us your e-dresses should start to see e-mails soon, but never too many. If you are a member and don't get anything and you want to, be sure to contact [joyce@plantamnesty.org](mailto:joyce@plantamnesty.org) and give her your correct address.

I would like to add a group list of people who are specifically interested in becoming PlantAdvocates (see Green Lobby in Upcoming Events) and exercising a little political clout. I promise not to overwhelm you with too much information or too many requests for action. It'll be fun. We'll get a lot done. You'll see. – *Cass Turnbull*

### WesSpur Tree Equipment

1680 Baker Creek Place  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
800-268-2141  
[www.wesspur.com](http://www.wesspur.com)

## Tale of Horror: Kitsap Judge Orders Tree Topping

### **REAL ESTATE**

Cynthia Creasey, specializing in gardens that come with houses in Seattle,  
**Lake & Co. Real Estate, 206-276-8292**



### **Man With Pruning Shears**

*By Phyllis McGinley*

The gentleman loves all that grows-  
    Bud, shoot, or bough that blossoms dapple.  
He plants the rose and feeds the rose  
    And guards the springtime apple;

Has a green thumb; is quick to praise  
    The frailest petal in his borders;  
Can heal (with a myriad sprays)  
    The peony's disorders.

So what has overtaken him,  
    What frenzy set his wits to wander  
That he should ravage limb by limb  
    The wholesome lilac yonder?

That he should lay the privet low  
    And do the vines such treason  
That scarce a twig, I think, will show  
    Its leaf again this season?

A milder chap was never planned,  
    Or one with more decorum  
But now the weapon's in his hand  
    And branches thick before'm

The self-same madness takes his mind  
    That took his mind when he was little  
And owned a knife and could not find  
    Sufficient stick to whittle.



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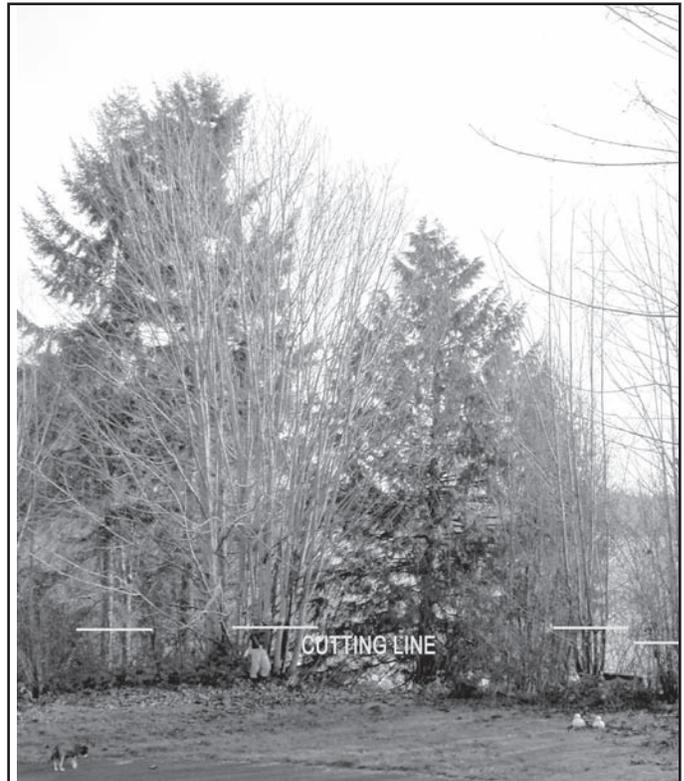
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lerouxmagnolia@att.net

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Mandating tree topping should be disallowed solely on the grounds that it creates a hidden liability for future tree owners. (In the Barcia case, the property owner was sued for maintaining the previously topped tree that caused a young boy to fall when a weak branch gave way as he was climbing the tree. He is now a paraplegic.)



*Kitsap trees at risk – see cut line*

Furthermore, cutting someone else's trees benefits no one but the owner of the home and window with the view. It increases their property value, while decreasing the value of their neighbor's treed property without compensation. The tree owners, on the other hand, are maintaining a public "green utility" from which we all benefit. Trees are not just for looks. As Don Wilike said, "We'd need trees if they were ugly and smelled bad."

People still don't seem to get that these trees, right here, in your backyard, city or greenbelt, are the ones that are doing the most to stop global warming, save energy, create oxygen, sink carbon, and prevent storm water overflow, slides, smog, and particulate pollution. Trees provide a host of other benefits that are not just nice, but increasingly essential. Just like you can't pollute the air or water that is on your land, as it is used by everyone, you should not be

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# Calendar of Events

*Board Meetings are the first Monday of every month, 7-9 pm at Magnuson Park, Building 30. They are open to members and the public. Call or e-mail for exact location or if you want to put something on the agenda.*

## ISA Conference

**September 16 – 19**

OSU will host this year's conference of the Pacific NW Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) in Corvallis, Oregon. Featured speakers come from as far away as Australia, as well as from the US and Canada. To find out more, check out the PNW-ISA website at [www.pnwisa.org](http://www.pnwisa.org), or contact Judy Good at [goodj@peak.org](mailto:goodj@peak.org), 541-752-6260. Reduced rates are available for volunteers (six hours or more) and students. CE Units available.

## Reading Tree Leaves (New Garden Group)

**September 18**

**6 – 9pm, Tuesday**

Location TBD (somewhere in Seattle)

Join us for this brand new Plant Amnesty book group. Potluck 6 - 7:30pm. "Beds I Have Known: Confessions of a Passionate Amateur Gardener" by Martha Smith. Book discussion (on tree and garden-related books, of course) and future book selection is 7:30 – 9pm. Friends, spouses and participating teens are welcome. Learn more! Contact Lacia, LLB101@excite.com or call (206) 522-4472 for more information.

## Plant Sale Lite

**September 30**

**10am – 3pm, Sunday**

Magnuson Park. You'll go ape over our wide selection of great plants! Sure we have 4" pots of expensive, choice plants—just like those other plant sales. But unlike our competitors, we also have trees, shrubs, and vines donated from our generous local nurseries! We sell them at wholesale prices or sometimes even less. Now that really is a sale!

Just the plants ma'm. No auction, no Weedo, no classes . . . Just the best deals on plants to be found in the greater Seattle area. (But there will be the Ugly Yard Photo Contest judging that day, on site. We can't not do that!)

Presale for volunteers only. This year's plant sale is designed to be kinder and gentler for our volunteers. Please drop off your plant donations on Friday or Saturday. We need volun-

teers—call us if you would like to help at 206-783-9813.

## PlantAmnesty Meeting of Like Minds

**October 16**

**7 – 9pm, Tuesday**

University of Washington Botanical Gardens, Douglas classroom, (Formerly the Center for Urban Horticulture) 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

Topic: Changing the World. Speaker, **Matt Mega** from Audubon. Our new Advocacy Committee hosts this meeting. The PlantAdvocates mission is to "Promote, Protect, and Preserve the Urban Forest" (P3UF) and our first official act is to create a green lobby. The green lobby's first official act is to get the revised Street Tree Ordinance (Seattle) adopted. (It's been proposed for the last 18 years! We have exciting evening news footage!). We'll listen to Matt, eat yummy food, and auction off items of interest. Oh, and there will be a short, painless letter writing session to kick off the Green Lobby. Bring some stationary (or a laptop). We'll have stamps, spell checkers, and envelopes on hand. It'll be fun!

## PlantAmnesty Renovation Workshop

**October 20**

**10am – 3pm, Saturday**

Located at a private residence in King County, selected for its neglected state and diverse plant material so as to provide instruction on a wide variety of topics. Registrants will receive directions. **A renovation site is being sought.**

Cost: \$65 for PlantAmnesty members, \$75 for the general public. Make checks payable to PlantAmnesty. Pre-registration is required. Use the form on page 9, or contact PlantAmnesty at [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org) or 206-783-9813.

## Tree Hugger Oktoberfest at the Tractor Tavern

**October 24th**

**Thursday, 7 pm til it's over**

Earn money for PlantAmnesty by drinking beer. Now there's an idea whose time has come! Ballard's Tractor Tavern will donate the **\$10.00 cover charge** to PlantAmnesty when you come to this, our latest, greatest fundraising scheme. You have to pay for your own beer too. But hey, you'd do that anyway, right?

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# Calendar of Events

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To kick off the evening and break the ice, Cass will lead us in a round of horticultural charades. Later we all kick up our heels to the live music of our favorite new band **Lake City Way!** There will be tunes of arboricultural theme! Hey, at least it isn't Karaoke or Polka! And there will be a raffle. Bring your friends, *all* your friends. We need 150 of you, and it's on a school night. Just show up at the Tractor Tavern in Ballard, 5213 Ballard Ave. NW.

## Nominations for 2008 PlantAmnesty Board

It's that time of year again: nominate yourself or another member to run for a position on our Board of Directors. Do you want to have a say in determining PlantAmnesty's long-term goals? Perhaps you have ideas on how to improve PlantAmnesty, or you'd like to develop your leadership skills. How about just giving back to a great organization that's dedicated to promoting awareness of and respect for plants?

If you are interested, fill out the form and mail it to PlantAmnesty, P.O. Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0337. Or e-mail [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org).



## Nominations for 2008 PlantAmnesty Board

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell or Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination for PlantAmnesty Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send absentee ballot

Mail to: P.O. Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0377

## Garden Book Club

November 20th

6 – 9pm, Tuesday

Location TBD (somewhere in Seattle)

Join us for this brand new Plant Amnesty book group. Potluck 6 - 730pm. Book discussion (on tree and garden-related books, of course) and future book selection is 7:30 – 9pm. Friends, spouses and participating teens are welcome. Learn more! Contact Lacia, [LLB101@excite.com](mailto:LLB101@excite.com) for more information.

## PlantAmnesty Holiday Party and Annual Meeting

December 18th

7 – 9pm, Tuesday

University of Washington  
Botanical Gardens,  
Douglas classroom  
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle



It's time to celebrate our achievements at our gala Holiday Party. Drink Champagne punch, bring your best potluck dish and enjoy festive décor and live music. We'll review the year's many and great accomplishments and announce the 2007 PlantActivist award winners. Lots of door prizes. We hope to see you there! Contact PlantAmnesty at [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org) or 206-783-9813.

## Tacoma Calendar of Events

### Annual Meeting

September 11th

6:30, Tuesday

Metro Parks Building

Cass Turnbull will teach us how to pruned Japanese maples at our annual meeting and potluck. Please bring your photos for the ugly yard contest and win valuable prizes. We will be holding nominations for board members and reviewing the previous years' achievements.

### Used Garden Book Sale

October 6th, Saturday

10:00 - 12:00

Metro Parks Building

### Meeting and Potluck

November 13th

6:30, Tuesday

Meeting and potluck. Topic TBA.

## TreeHugger Bingo

**P**lantAmnesty's Bingo and Chili Feed was a huge success, and everyone wants to do it again, including **Ciscoe!** Even though we managed to hold the event on the second hottest day of the year, a good time was had by all. Our fearless leader **Cass** (Bingo Queen Bee) **Turnbull** and **Ciscoe Morris** were front and center all evening, running the Bingo games. **Ciscoe** used his vast store of plant lore and yard art analysis to inspire our players to pay closest attention to their cards, in hopes of winning one of the many plants, gardening tools, yard art, planters and other goodies on offer.

**Keith Ganey** was unavailable to run the PowerPoint screen of Bingo numbers. So **Sherry Perrine** stood on a table and wrote the Bingo numbers on a whiteboard as they were drawn. Everyone agrees that she made a darn good Vanna! A break in the action made time for a special game with a single \$100 prize. Also during the break, birthday boy **John Turnbull** was honored for his twenty years of support for PlantAmnesty, and treated to a breathy rendition of "Happy Birthday" by our own Marilyn Monrovia (**Denise Anderson** of Foothills Landscaping).

It takes a great team to put on a great party, and we had that team. Our Masters of the Partyverse, **Cass Turnbull** and

**Rose Brittenham**, pulled every detail together and made it look easy. We are very grateful to everyone who donated the fabulous prizes, which Horticulturist **Julie Hale**, **Deidre Muns** of Florabunga and **Fallah Jones** organized into lots for each round. Sashaying around the room to show off the

prizes were the marvelous Plantha (**Fran Bry**), Marilyn Monrovia (**Denise Anderson**), Garden Angel (**Aleta Mueller**), and Father Weedo (**Bill Wanless**). Meanwhile, Bingo Boss **Lacia Lynne Bailey** and her assistant **Melcombe Forbes** were everywhere at once, darting between the rows of tables to authenticate the prize winners.



*Bingo Cake.*

Thanks to **Jamie Roulette** for baking that delicious chocolate cake, and to **Bonnie Lyons** of New Renaissance Cakes who donated a huge fresh strawberries and cream cake, that was enjoyed by everyone! The delicious chili was courtesy of **John Turnbull**, **Cynthia Creasey**, **Lacia Lynne Bailey**, **Marianna Clark**, and **Marlis Korber**, who also acted as Kitchen Boss. She and her crew made perfect preparations to serve a hungry crowd. **Arthur Lee Jacobson** served chili and other goodies with verve.

**Rose Brittenham's** wonderful food fund-raising assistance team consisted of **Deborah Pederson**, **Maggie Johnston**, **Mike Ewanciw** and (Ladybug) **Wendy Luker**, who graciously served cool beverages and cake. **Cynthia Creasey** made and served a tasty salad and **Alan Brittenham** was a big help, making sure that the cast had plenty of cold drinks. Registrar Boss **Charlotte Moss** masterminded the registration and fundraiser tally, with capable helpers **Joyce Lane**, **Juliet Cole**, and **Nancy Cleland**.

Set-up and Clean-up Boss, **Jamie Roulette**, with her Schlep-in and Set-up Crew, were magnificent! We couldn't have done it without you: **Joe Wagner** of Joe the Shrubber, **Melcombe Forbes**, **Marianna Clark**, and **Fran Bry**. **Karen Cleghorn** and **Bill Russel** were Table Wranglers, while **Bruce Cowan** was Greeter and Line Sheriff. **Nicola Whaley** of Green Concerns was Dauber Girl.

### **A Great Big Thank You to all who donated their time and goods to TreeHugger Bingo!**

Sky Nursery, City Peoples Garden Center, Fremont Gardens, Georgetown Home and Garden, Seattle Tilth, Clear Creek Nursery, Sasquatch Books, Steamboat Island Nursery, Swanson's Nursery, WesSpur Tools, Good Nature Publishing, QFC Crown Hill, John Turnbull, Leroux Fine Apparell, Vixen Day Spa and Boutique, Seasons Nursery, Queen Anne Books, Alaskan Motel Westport, Elizabeth Lin, City Peoples Mercantile, OK Corral BBQ, Washington Pottery Company, Rose and Alan Brittenham, Earlington Nursery, Cynthia Creasey, North Hill Bakery, Lacia Lynne, Marlis Korber, Half Price Pots, Jamie Roulette, Renaissance Cakes, Mike Ewanciw, Bill and Susi Thorness, and Smokey Point Nursery.

Plant Amnesty's 19th Annual Plant Sale!

PLANT AMNESTY 19TH ANNUAL

# PLANT SALE

**RAIN  
OR  
SHINE!**

**SUN. SEPT. 30TH  
10AM TO 3PM**

**WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK,  
7400 SAND POINT WAY NE,  
SEATTLE, WA 98115**

[www.plantamnesty.org](http://www.plantamnesty.org)

For more information call 206 783-9813.

**BARGAIN PRICES  
GREAT SELECTION**

All proceeds go to Plant Amnesty, A non-profit organization promoting better pruning.



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## Tales of Horror and Hope

*continued from page 7*

allowed to degrade the environment by forcing your neighbors to top or remove trees. It just ain't right.

Community covenants of the 1950's that prevented black people from owning homes in gated communities of white people were ruled inherently unjust. (Supporters always justified them on the basis of decreased property values, not racial prejudice.) And so are these odious view covenants. It is not lost on anyone that view mongers always begin their speeches by stating how much they love trees, just like they used to say, "Some of my best friends are black." And then ask that they be excluded on the basis of property values.

For those of you who actually enjoy using the internet, the complete text of the Kitsap Sun article, [Battle Over Trees Pits SK Couple Against Their Neighbors](http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2007/jun/23/battle-over-trees-pits-sk-couple-against-their/), is at [www.kitsapsun.com/news/2007/jun/23/battle-over-trees-pits-sk-couple-against-their/](http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2007/jun/23/battle-over-trees-pits-sk-couple-against-their/). It is also available through a link on our homepage at [PlantAmnesty.org](http://PlantAmnesty.org).

## Tales of Hope

This quarter's Tales of Hope constitute twin salvos in war against the Shear Madness Machine. **Jill Kuraitis** wrote a fabulous, and fabulously funny, article on why not to shear shrubs called "Mangled Blobs Yearning to Breathe Free". She hails from Boise, [www.NewsWest.Net/Boise](http://www.NewsWest.Net/Boise). In her article she notes that "when Mamie Eisenhower had bangs, people pruned their shrubs like this", and "These junipers were whacked by a malicious hedge trimmer wielded by someone with anger issues". To read the article online, visit PlantAmnesty's new "In the News" feature on our website, [plantamnesty.org](http://plantamnesty.org). Or you can endeavor to type in [http://www.newwest.net/index.php/city/article/mangled\\_blobs\\_yearning\\_to\\_breathe\\_free/C108/L108/](http://www.newwest.net/index.php/city/article/mangled_blobs_yearning_to_breathe_free/C108/L108/)

Closer to home, **Tom Quigley** of Olympic Nursery did his bit to raise awareness of the pruning problem, while catching some educated consumers for himself. The KING FM radio piece began with his disparaging the shearing and hacking of trees and shrubs. With this radio advertisement, Tom is showing everyone that it can pay to do what is right. We hope that more companies will follow his lead.

### WISH LIST

Yard renovation site - King County overgrown garden for workshop. Call Cass (206) 783-9093.

### WANTED

Meeting Room for advocacy committee on Capitol Hill, 7-9 pm, once a month. Call Cass (206) 783-9093.

## Perennial Maintenance for Beginners - Part I

*continued from page 5*

it out of the ground. Wraslin' root balls, that's what it's all about. This past fall, after stabbing the dug-up rootball of a large ornamental grass repeatedly with spades, futilely, for a half hour, we finally succeeded by using an axe and pry bar to split it apart. We were exhausted. And we put back less than an eighth of what we started with. Oh, and we had divided the same plant two years previously.

The best trick I ever learned from reading a magazine (with illustration) was how to use two spading forks, back to back, to pry apart a root-mass. After stomping or hammering the tines into the root mass (dug up), one adjacent to the other, one uses the shoulders of the tools as the fulcrum point. Pushing the handles in opposite directions will magically pry the uncooperative plant apart. Wow!

I've only seen dividing be successful in getting plants to blooming on a couple of occasions. Once I attempted to remove an entire patch of crocosmia which the homeowner said no longer bloomed. I did what I thought was a thorough job. Except that the roots of the crocosmia are like a series of pop-beads that separate when you dig them up. And when I had removed 90% of the roots, those corms that had escaped had plenty of room to grow and bloom, which they did next year. In fact, I find that some plants are impossible to remove. When I try to get rid of them, they come back, and some even increase: arum, alstromeria, Scilla non-scripta (the common bluebell), acanthus, calla lily, and lots more, I imagine. It's kind of scary when you think about it.

Just because perennials look delicate, doesn't mean they are, and neither is the business of taking care of them. And it's dangerous! I can't tell you how many times I've bent over in a perennial bed to tickle out some covey of shotweed and narrowly missed poking my eye out on a stake. I'm surprised there aren't more one-eyed gardeners.

*Editor's Note: Look for Parts II and III in the next two issues of the Newsletter.*

## THROW OUT THE B-1, GET OUT THE SUGAR WATER

(From the Nov 2004 Journal of Arboriculture)

The abstract from this study concludes, "Results indicate application of sugars as a soil drench may be able to aid in establishment of newly planted trees by improving root vigor post transplanting." Yes, they are talking about dissolving a couple of those packets of sugar commonly found on the diner counter, into a gallon of water and pouring it on your newly transplanted shrub! It's probably too cheap and too easy to become popular.

## Adopt-A-Plant.

You call, you dig, you haul, that's all.  
PLEASE FILL HOLES AND LEAVE THE SITE TIDY

The PlantAmnesty Adopt-a-Plant list is available on our web site for members. The following are examples of some recent listings. If you do not have access to the internet, please call us at (206) 783-9813 ext. 0 and we'll mail you a current copy of the complete list.

## ECO - EXCHANGE

S Bellevue: 2 green cone compost bins. Call Virginia at 425.643.0309

BELLEVUE/Crossroads: honeysuckle available for adoption. Call Vivian at 425.747.6535

Greenlake: Our builder plugged into our backyard 6 maple trees, of which subspecies I do not know. They are already 10 ft. tall, 6' apart and soon to create problems for the yard. We'd love to find them a good home. Call Brent at 206-407-4772

Bellevue: Large rhodie, 10'X8'. Call Al - 425.747.7575

Northgate: 2 Dwarf Alberta Spruce approx 9ft. Call Loreen at 206.361.2795

Madison Park: I have a potentially lovely Magnolia tree - Magnolia grandiflora "Saint Mary" - that is NOT happy in my garden. She is 9' 3" tall. I can be reached at 206.323.0989 or at leeb43@comcast.net. I would like to see this beautiful tree go to a happy garden

Seattle: 5' Western Red Cedar available for adoption. Call Janice at 206.283.0872

N Seattle: 2 mature rhodies 7-8ft, one with dark pink flowers, the other with medium pink flowers. Rick at 206.284.1888

W Seattle: three Pampas Grass ranging from 5 to 6ft. Dave at 206.409.5615

Seattle: Colorado Blue Spruce in a pot, about 5' tall including pot, that needs a good home. Contact Niki at 206.526.7674

Renton: 10 ft Copper beech grown from seed (may be weeping variety). It's in an oak barrel, although it's most probably gone through the bottom. Contact Paula 425.226.4067 or roadyes@gmail.com

Crown Hill: 6x3ft Douglas fir. Contact Vicky at 206.783.3870 or vpapajani@earthlink.net

Mapleleaf: 8x8ft rhodie, pink flowers. Call 206.329.0053 or email ggerhart@comcast.net

Bellevue: 10-12ft Bay Tree, 10-13ft blue pine (a native). Both in raised beds, so should be easier to move. Marge at 425.747.2212

Kent: 9 - 10ft cottonwood, and 2 sword ferns. Contact Jerry at 253.639.1586

N of UW: Hydrangea 6ftx5ft, blue flowers available for adoption. Contact Larry at 206.729.8397

Edmonds: trumpet vine. Call Barbara at 206.551.6547

Laurelhurst: approx 30 philodendrons. I'm moving and can't take them with me. Call Carl at 206.527.7072

Seattle: Indoor plant: Large Spathophyllum aka Peace lily available for adoption. Call Joan at 206.633.1528.

Seattle: 3 arborvitae 8ft. All in great condition. Call Matt at 206.251.0475

6'tall deep purple hydrangea. Call Jacquie at 206.547.8064

## HOUSE PLANTS

6.5' tall by 3.5' wide Norfolk Pine in a pot. Jane at 206.244.4846

Laurelhurst: approx 30 philodendrons. I'm moving and can't take them with me. Call Carl at 206.527.7072

Seattle: Indoor plant: Large Spathophyllum aka Peace lily available for adoption. Call Joan at 206.633.1528.

Hydrangea 4' diameter, a Christmas cactus 3' diameter, and other plants available for adoption. Call 425.806.1759

Bellevue: 7ft compact spruce (Dwarf Alberta Spruce). Marsha at 425.556.5121

Woodinville: 12-13ft x 10ft evergreen flowering magnolia. Contact Linda at 425.481.0720 or lsroundhill@comcast.net

Hydrangea 4' diameter, a Christmas cactus 3' diameter, and other plants available for adoption. Call 425.806.1759

Two Gomerer Waterer rhodies that have outgrown their space. They are healthy plants, about 6' tall at the highest point. Contact Cathy at cacdrs@teleport.com

S Everett near Silverlake: Azaleas, heather, juniper, Pyramidalis, rhodies and more, all available for adoption. All healthy and well maintained, ranging from 3 - 4ft. Call Paula at 425.353.6424

Kirkland: clematis purple and white. Phyllis at 425.242.0751

Woodinville: five 8ftx4ft rhodies, spectacular pink flowers. Contact Shona at 206.915.2282

Edmonds/Woodway: 6 yo pine, w/dappled bark, and a very old dwarf mugo pine, approx 4 ft. Call Jerry at 206.533.1909

Totem Lake/Kirkland: upright blue Atlas Cedar 8ftx5ft. Recently purchased, still balled and burlapped. Contact: Sharon 425.821.0121 sharon.rutledge@comcast.net

WE NEED AN ENGLISH BOXWOOD: We have lost one shrub of a 13-shrub, 70-year-old boxwood hedge. It was choked off from not getting enough water for over a year. If anyone is pulling out an older boxwood hedge, there is an eager recipient desperately seeking a bush, approx 3.5 - 5ft tall. Contact Pauline at 206.328.1778 or pauline.benson@gmail.com

Pacific, near Auburn: five 40 year old blueberries, and four 35 - 40 rhodies, ranging in height from 3ft to 12 ft. Contact Tera at 253.561.5137

N Ballard: 11 leyland cypresses, 5 to 5.5 ft tall 2to 3 ft wide, easy access. Contact Christopher or Rebecca at 206.782.0585 or cprosser@jcm.org

Lake Stevens: 6x8 rhodie. Big and full with white flowers. Call Bill at 425.335.4447

Near the Arboretum: 4 rhodies - large purple blooms 8-10ft x 4-6ft. Karen at 206-323-7213

3 phormiums - 5 ft x 6ft. Call Shirley at 206.242.4024

W Seattle/Westwood: 10 Hybrid Tea roses, approx 6ft, profuse bloomers, easy access next to driveway. call Kit at 206.763.3330

Bothell: weeping blue atlas cedar - 8ft tall x 7ft long x 3ft wide. Call Eric at 425.260.3284

Ravenna/Bryant: 3 euonymus alata 'Compactus' - dwarf burning bush 8ft x10ft. Call Peg at 206.524.5564

N Ballard: 2 rhodies with purple blooms, have been arborized. Call Maura at 206.721.7750

Mapleleaf: Birch 12ft, 9-10in diam, easy access. Contact Robert at 206.229.0400 or levinson\_r@yahoo.com





Near Death Experience



All Concrete & No Jungle

# Plant Amnesty Plant Sale

**Sunday September 30th – 10 am to 3 pm**

Magnuson Park, 7400 Sand Point Way, Seattle 98115 • FREE and open to the public – Follow the signs

**Cheap Plants** – Trees, Shrubs, Perennials at Wholesale Prices

**Plant Experts** – Can answer your plant questions

**Specimen Plants** – Unique and hard-to-find plants, if you're looking for something unusual

**Ugly Yard Photo Contest** – Winners chosen from the following categories: Bad Pruning - Trees; Bad Pruning - Shrubs; Bad Design; Deadly Dull; Too Bizarre; Best out of State; Best out of Country.

Send in your photos today! Valuable prizes!

**Orphan's Corner** – FREE plant giveaways!

**To Volunteer, donate plants or for more info call: (206) 783-9813  
or email Charlotte at: [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org)**

## PlantAmnesty

P.O. Box 15377  
Seattle, WA 98115-0377

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit #5011

*“To end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs”*