

Plant Amnesty ▲▲▲

Volume XIX • No. 1

www.plantamnesty.org

SPRING 2007

Pruning Topic: Epimedium and Sword Ferns

By Cass Turnbull

Epimedium

“March is a mowing month.” That’s a little Turnbull family mnemonic. More importantly, early March is the last opportunity gardeners in the PNW have to “mow down” the sword ferns (*Polystichum munitum*) and *Epimedium* (various species). Last year I was a bit too late (again) for the epimedium. New flowers were already shooting up through the old, blotched, beaten leaves. What the heck—I whacked it all off to the ground anyway. Over the next month, up came a host of unblemished new leaves, which is the point of this annual exercise. Whew!

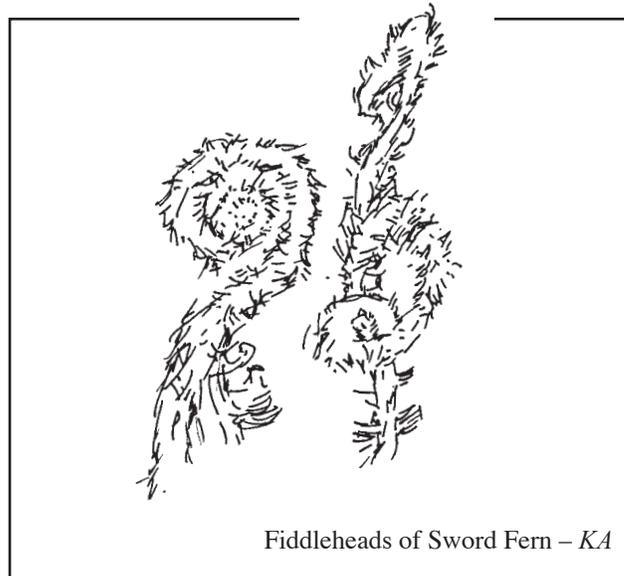
Needless to say, it is preferable to do this two weeks earlier—before the flower stems emerge, but after the danger of frost has passed. At this point you can easily shear all the leaves off with hedge shears, leaving a barren mound with 1-2” of old leaf stems. Then wait for the flowers and leaves to grow and enjoy them both.

Epimedium, if you’re not yet familiar with it, is a really nice clumping groundcover. I think a lot of horticulturalists might put it in the ‘choice’ category because, although it is tough, it doesn’t run rampant in the garden. It has two-inch, ovoid or heart-shaped leaves that sort of hover on wiry stems. The leaves are green with tints of bronzy-pink. And it is delicate—

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Fiddleheads of Sword Fern – KA

Hazardous Trees: The Second Storm

By Cass Turnbull / PlantAmnesty

Don’t Panic – Get a Tree Risk Assessment

I have been paying attention to trees and tree related issues for twenty years, which is how long it’s been since I started PlantAmnesty, a Seattle based organization to end tree topping. Since then some things have changed and others have not. In that score of years, Seattleites have weathered three ‘100 year storms’ the latest of which occurred this December. (Needless to say, we’ve stopped calling them that.) Twenty years ago it was not uncommon for media horticulturalists to recommend tree topping, and the evening news to air post-storm segments that recommended tree topping as a way to make trees safer. It took a lot of letter writing, but the ‘corporate culture’ of the newsrooms seems to have changed. It now includes the NO TOPPING message and reflects a more

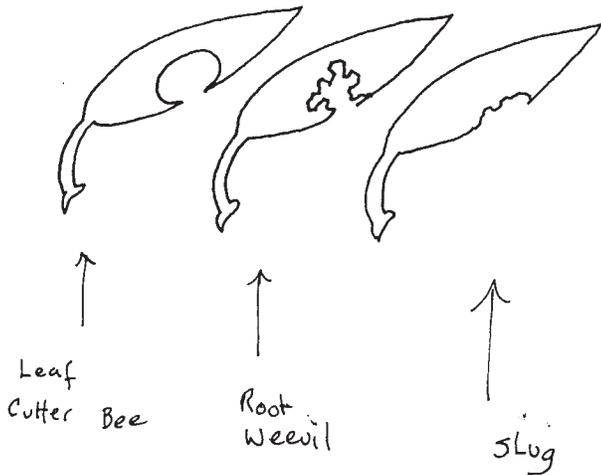
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**TAKE NOTE:
MEETINGS MOVED BACK TO CUH!**

Pruning Topic: Epimedium and Sword Ferns

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looking, reminding me of columbine, thalictrum or rue. Its leaves are favored by leaf-cutter bees. It took me years to spot the actual bee, but I always noticed its characteristic scalloped “cut” on a leaf edge. These bees never inflict significant



- KA

damage. It always makes me smile to know that I have detected their presence in the garden.

The flowers of *epimedium* are, in my opinion, a secondary feature. They rise on their own wiry stems and are nifty, small parachutes or “inside-out” flowers. They’re usually yellow, but rarer species bloom white or pink. I must say that I like its little brother, *Vancouveria*, even better. It’s a native groundcover, and roughly the same thing as *epimedium* but in miniature. Because it can be rampant, be careful where you plant it. I use it in my favorite planting under vine maples in my own yard: *Vancouveria*, *Helleborus orientalis*, wild bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), trillium and sword fern. If you have a wild or woodland area in your garden, I highly recommend this combination.

Sword Ferns

Not many horticulturalists would think of sword ferns as ‘choice’. Nevertheless, I am a big fan. People tend to place high value on those plants which are difficult. (For the same reason that men often fall for “high maintenance” women?) Sword ferns are just too easy and too common. Tough as nails, they live in sun or shade, sand or clay; they’re evergreen, and drought-tolerant, and never get “too big”; they add foliar

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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.

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Editorial Committee Marsha Hicks & Cass Turnbull
 Desktop Publishing Spin Digital - www.spindi.com
 Circulation/Membership Contributors Marsha Hicks, Charlotte Moss, Julie Hale, Sherry Perrine, Gar Russo and Cass Turnbull
 Photographers Many and Various
 Illustrations/Artwork Kate Allen
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Please mail us articles, short jokes, artwork, tales, Adopt-A-Plant and Eco-Exchange information. The newsletter is a benefit of membership.

Pruning Topic: Epimedium and Sword Ferns

Thank You, Major Donors

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Al Vaskas

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contrast, and transplant easily. And they are one of the few plants that have a chance to make it under our native conifers. When I renovate mature gardens I am confident that I will be able to find a few ferns hidden in the yard somewhere, perfect to dig and move for an on-the-spot garden make-over.

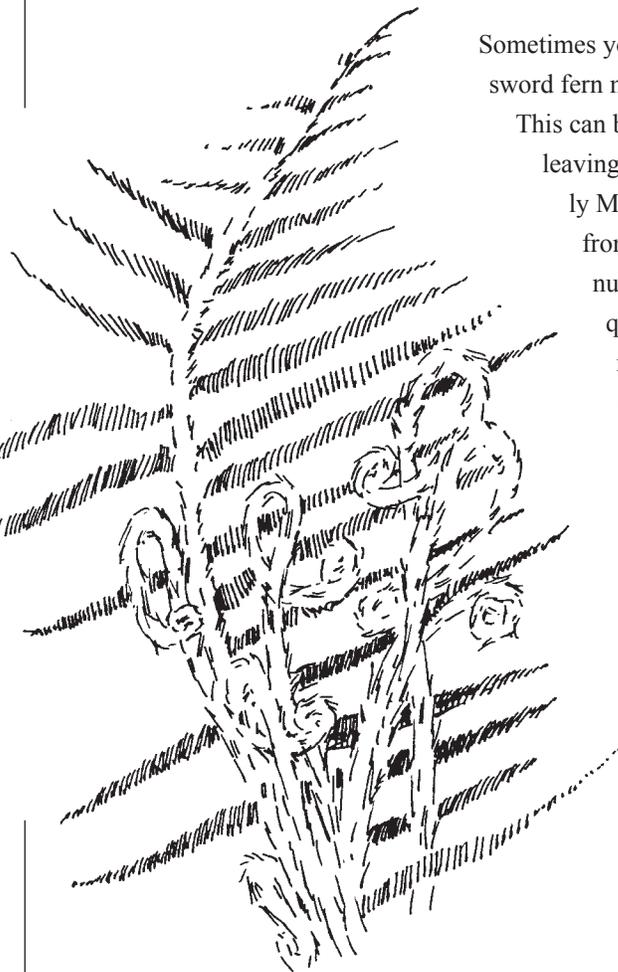
I guess I can't say they never get too big. Sometimes, if they are next to a walkway, or if they have been breeding in a confined space, sword ferns may need to be dug and moved. Usually this is pretty easy. Occasionally it is not. My first sword fern transplant was a fern-from-hell. I'd say about one in twenty is a bear to move. The same might be said of rhodies.

Sometimes you can get away with making a big sword fern moderately smaller and cleaner looking. This can be achieved by cutting all the fronds off, leaving a barren mound in late February or early March. As they start to emerge, the new fronds are a cluster of cute, furry-looking nubs. Then they unfurl as "fiddleheads", quite interesting to behold. Before the new fiddleheads unfurl, you can cut the entire set of old fern fronds off quickly, with a hedge shears if you like. But if you wait until the fiddleheads begin to do their thing, you must slowly and painstakingly pick between them to cut off each frond separately. Otherwise the delicate fiddleheads break. I hear they are edible. You'll have to ask Arthur Lee Jacobson how they taste. I've never been tempted to eat anything furry.

If I get to sword ferns too late, I am apt to let them go au naturel for another year—no harm in that. The new fronds will emerge and the old ones eventually turn brown and

—KA

fold down, still attached, to the ground. Most new customers never think to de-frond their ferns, and I usually keep them in the dark until I have worked their yards into good shape over a few years. Then, when I have a little more time in the spring, I might groom them. The problem is that the renewed ferns look so much nicer, I am forever after expected to spruce them up each spring.



Hazardous Trees: The Second Storm (cont'd)

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sophisticated understanding of 'tree failure', as it called in the business. And these days, we are apt to hear a bit about the predisposing factors, things like saturated soils followed by strong winds that cause trees to go down.

Still, the arborists and tree lovers I know are complaining about 'the second storm'. That's what we call it when the nervous citizens engage in tree topping, still widely practiced across the state and the world, and unnecessary removal of perfectly good trees--the ones that just proved themselves strong by withstanding the big blow. It is as if you decided to give up driving because a friend of yours got in an auto accident. The better solution is to recommit driving defensively, buckle up, and get a car with an air bag. The reasonable reaction to concerns of tree safety is to hire a qualified arborist (the key word here is 'qualified') to do a Tree Risk Assessment.

After this last big blow, I asked some of the PlantAmnesty arborists a few questions, the answers to which you may find interesting. They said that most trees that failed (blew down, broken limbs or trunk failure) had defects and prob-



ably 50% could have been foretold had a full 'risk assessment' been done. Some of the common predisposing factors are: root rots, narrow branch attachments (with 'included bark'), compromised roots due to construction damage (a patio, a driveway, a new building development occurring within the last 7 years), trees newly exposed to wind stresses, and species with certain characteristic weaknesses.

The knowledge that topping is a cause of hazard trees, not the cure, seems not to have reached many parts of the state. Topping is itself one of the predisposing factors since it causes trunks to rot out and the new limbs that result are often weakly attached and will break out many years later when they are heavy and can do damage. Many of the tree tops that blew out in the Inaugural Day storm did so because the trees were topped after the Columbus

Day storm. There are not a lot of things you can do in your life to cause great physical harm or death-- but drunk driving and tree topping are two.

One improvement that has occurred during the last twenty years is the creation of a 'pruning code'. It is published by the American National Standards Institute. They are the ANSI A-300 pruning standards and they should be referenced by homeowners, arborists and organizations whenever tree work is being bid. It is a huge step in the direction of fraud prevention.

Tree Risk Assessment is a newly emerging methodology, and accuracy is highly dependant on the experience and training of the arborist. Unfortunately some things haven't changed a lot since 1987. Although Seattle has gained many more highly qualified tree companies, the majority of people in the 'tree business' in Washington state and the nation have no formal training and just make it up as they go along. Many of them, including several large, successful business use scare tactics to get people to 'prune' or remove perfectly sound trees. You need nothing more than your \$80 business license to start your own tree business. In fact, more credentials are required to be a hairdresser, than to assess the safety of an 80 foot, 200-year old tree.

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For A Risk Assessment

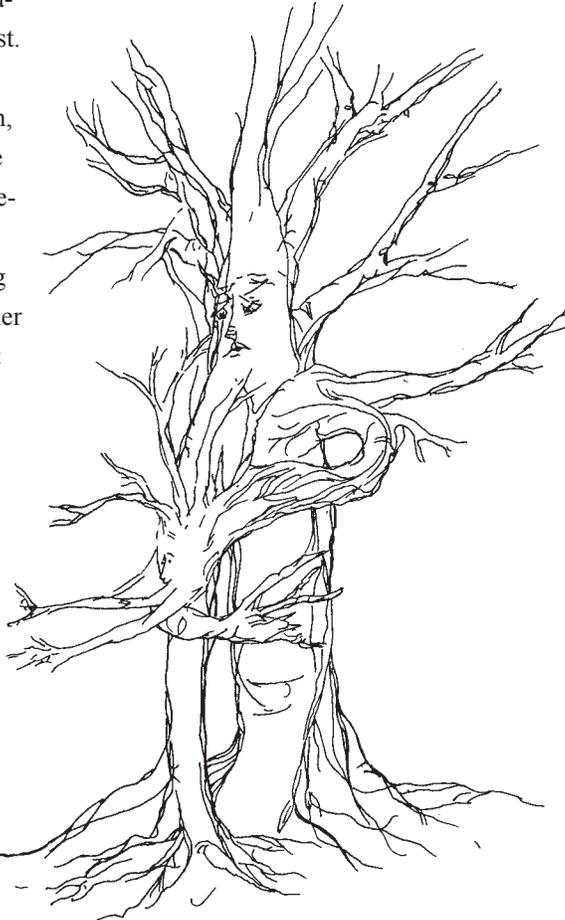
Qualified Arborists can be located by contacting the PlantAmnesty Referral Service

**206-783-9813 or
info@plantamnesty.org
or isa-arbor.com**

Hazardous Trees: The Second Storm (cont'd)

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The word 'arborist' means roughly 'tree person', and is not like the word 'doctor'. It is more like the word 'landscaper'. Anybody can call themselves an arborist. Luckily for all of us, since 1987, the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) has instituted a testing program for arborists and you can be assured of a certain level of technical, science-based knowledge by hiring an 'ISA Certified' Arborist (<http://www.isa-arbor.com/findArborist/findarborist.aspx> and <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/wcfc/treecare>). But in my opinion, of those people, only a percentage will have the needed years of experience to properly weigh the relative risks involved when assessing a tree. In truth, a tree is rarely either 'completely safe' or 'an imminent hazard' as we would like. It will probably have some defects



—KA

and lie somewhere on a continuum between the two extremes. New arborists, like new 'med' students, are apt to see serious conditions where only minor ones exist.

All of this tends to lead people to want to do their own Tree Risk Assessment which is about as wise as being your own doctor. I suggest you take the time and trouble to hunt for a good arborist. Be willing to do what it takes to get them to your property, and ask for a COMPLETE (more expensive \$400- \$500) risk assessment (instead

of the cheaper "visual assessment" \$150-\$200), lest they miss one of the more hidden indicators. Start with the ISA list of Certified Arborists; ask your local City Arborist or Park Department head if they know someone to recommend (unless you live in one of those cities like Aberdeen or Toppenish where the city officials are actually topping all the city trees!). The more years your arborist has

picking up after storms, the more likely he/she will have the right balance of field experience and book learning. Be patient, it will be months before the good guys dig out of the backlog of work left by this storm. Unless your tree is newly leaning, has heaved the ground or is dead, you are probably in no immediate danger. Try to get an arborist in the off season (early winter before the storms, or the summer lull, Aug-Sept). Like all good trades people they have a lot of work already. Be patient and persistent. If you live far away from qualified arborists, get together with some of your neighbors to get an arborist out to do several evaluations in the same day or days--making it worthwhile for them to travel. And you might try bribery, like putting the arborist and spouse up in your local B&B. If you live way, way too far

away, you will have to act as your own 'doctor' and read up on Risk Assessment, previously known as Hazard Tree Evaluation. PlantAmnesty and the National Arbor Day Foundation have literature on this topic.

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Container Gardening

By Julie Hale

Over the past fifteen years, the popularity of pots and planters has increased tremendously. In both commercial and residential settings, these pots feature a variety of annuals, grasses, bulbs, perennials, and shrubs. Horticulturalists refer to these pots as “container gardens” or “mixed containers”. In my landscape gardening business, I get a lot of requests for mixed container gardens, as well as for strictly seasonal color pots, and creating them is one of the most enjoyable parts of my job. I also learn from other designers’ work. Sometimes I’m literally stopped in my tracks by the creativity and innovation that I see in container gardens.

Containers are a great way to extend the garden’s influence beyond its beds and borders. They are also perfect in smaller areas such as condo balconies or patios, where there just isn’t room for extensive gardening. They contribute color, dramatic textural interest, and even fragrance. Pots can be grouped to create a lush hideaway and evoke an air of intimacy, especially within an outdoor seating area.

The three keys to creating and maintaining a beautiful mixed container are container size, plant selection and aftercare.

Container Size

In determining the appropriate sizes to buy, bear in mind that small pots dry out quickly and thus require frequent watering. Also, they usually can’t hold more than a few plants, and their small size may make them look trivial and out of scale in relation to their surroundings. For example, an interesting group of three containers on a patio could include one pot with a top diameter of 15”, ranging upward to a medium size of 18”, and including a third pot with a top diameter of 24”. Varying container heights will add visual interest to the collection. For any given grouping, similar container styles and glaze colors help unify the look.

Plant Selection

This, of course, is the fun part. You’ll be more successful if you select plants that are appropriate for the setting and its cultural conditions. This is why new gardeners who site their fuchsia baskets or impatiens on their west-facing front porch may abandon their failed attempts in midsummer, declaring that they have a brown thumb or that the nursery sold them substandard plants. Remember: right plant, right place. To create year-round interest, I like to include shrubby plants and grasses. I call these year-round stalwarts “anchor plants”; they usually look good for one to three years before outgrowing the container. Then it’s time to give the container a “do-over”. Remove any leggy, overgrown or root-bound plants

and replace them with fresh anchor plants. If the anchor plants are too large but still look good, they can often segue into a spot in the garden border. No garden border? No problem. One of your neighbors will swoop down on your offering marked “Free Plants” and happily give the orphans a home. When selecting anchor plants, visualize plants that have evergreen foliage, winter interest such as berries or flowers, or great architectural form. Think January-blooming *Camellia sasanqua*; bold, upright variegated *Fatsyhedera*; colorfully mottled *Leucoethoe* ‘Rainbow’; red-berried *Pernettya*; multi-stripped New Zealand Flax; gorgeous dwarf conifers . . . you can take it from there. In addition, a visit to well-stocked nurseries can inspire you to change your container plantings to suit the season.

Another aspect of plant selection: edit your choices carefully. Remember that a container is like an exquisite miniature garden. It should evoke a sense of aesthetic unity, not visual overload. Lay out the plants, stand back and critique before you install. If there are too many elements, analyze the composition and pull out plants that seem to strike a false note. For instance, two plants may have the same grassy or bold texture—they’re redundant. You may need to leave out a plant whose odd hue detracts from your color theme. Usually, three to six well-chosen plant types are enough.

Here’s an example. Picture relaxing in your favorite outdoor chair on a midsummer day. You glance over at a nearby group of three containers, each filled with similar plants. A fine-textured clump of yellow-green Japanese forest grass (*Hakonechloa macra* ‘Aureola’) waves gently in a passing breeze, its color echoed by the small golden-green leaves of gold Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis* ‘Aurea’) scrambling over the edges of the pots. In the largest container, a purplish-black Coleus (*Solenostemon x hybridus* ‘Dark Prince’), planted slightly off-center, provides tall, dark and handsome contrast to the bright gold. The same dark tone is repeated in the large, heart-shaped leaves of the black potato vine (*Ipomoea batatas* ‘Blackie’) draped among the golden Tradescantia. Nearby, the bold leaves of a chartreuse-golden Hellebore (*Helleborus* ‘Gold Bullion’) add a third point to the triangle of gold. Tucked in at the base of these plants are low annual impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*) in a deep rich magenta, delivering a knockout punch to the gold and creating a perfect complement to the velvety black tones.

Now, assess the contents: three basic colors, six different plant types, multiple textures, and varying heights. It’s enough; you’re done, you can go pour yourself a cool drink

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Container Gardening

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and sit back to enjoy your handiwork. Well, almost. There's that third element, and yes—it's essential.

Aftercare

Maintenance. Follow-up. Call it what you will—just be sure to do it. For containers, it's the difference between success and failure. Drought-stressed, overgrown, going-to-seed plants don't evoke feelings of relaxation; they sit there silently reminding you that you spent good money and valuable time, then turned your back and left them to suffer. How to avoid

such a sad scene? Practice the three main points of maintenance on a regular basis.

Water regularly.

This may mean checking your pots three or four times a week during summer's heat. If you travel a lot or can't commit to such a regular schedule, consider installing a small drip watering system that leads off a hose bib. Alternatively, have a drip zone added to your regular underground irrigation system, if you have one. Annuals will flower throughout the season if a water-soluble fertilizer is applied monthly.

Deadhead and groom weekly. This means carefully picking off any spent flower heads to encourage repeat blooming and keep the plants looking fresh. Other grooming tasks might include pinching back the tips of vining plants to keep them looking neat (potato vines, for example, can grow really fast in the summer heat); nipping out flower spikes of Coleus and other plants grown primarily for foliage; trimming away brown leaves, and keeping a lookout for any pests such as aphids or mites. Drought-stressed plants are particularly susceptible to mites.

Change out plants when necessary: Annuals are changed out seasonally, typically in May for the spring/summer, and September or October for the fall/winter period. Remember, you can replace anchor plants yearly or as needed. Bulbs make a great addition in early spring; either plant them directly in the pot in fall, or purchase a few 4" pots of bulbs and slip the contents into any vacant spots between anchor plants. *Narcissus 'Tete-a-Tete'* and many tulip cultivars work well for this kind of instant window dressing.

One of the things I love the most about container gardening is the ever-expanding variety of gorgeous containers in all shapes, sizes, colors and materials. Pair that with the amazing parade of new plants available each year, and the creative possibilities are limitless. So go forth! Install, experiment, enjoy—and maintain.



– KA

**GOD MADE RAINY DAYS SO GARDENERS
COULD GET THE HOUSEWORK DONE.**

Calendar of Events

Board Meetings are the first Monday of every month 7-9pm 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.

MARCH 17 – Renovation Workshop

10am – 3pm

Join Cass Turnbull and a crew of PA gardeners to learn how to renovate an overgrown landscape. Slide show and lecture, followed by hands-on experience outside. Location TBA. To register, see the sign-up sheet on page 15.

APRIL 15—Heritage Tree Dedication

11am – Noon

Maura Shapley’s wonderful Western White Pine on Beacon Hill. There will be short speeches, cookies, unveiling of the engraved stone, and a toast to the health of the tree. The tree is behind the Day Moon Print Shop on 3320 Beacon Ave. South. Find us by accessing the fenced yard south of 3317 18th Avenue S. Just follow the Heritage Tree Dedication signs. Call Maura at 206-721-0064 for more information.

APRIL 17—PlantAmnesty Meeting of Like Minds: Topic – Doug Firs: Friend or Foe?

7 – 9pm

Douglas fir: Friend or Foe? Center for Urban Horticulture, Douglass Class Room. Arthur Lee Jacobson wrote an article

on DOUG FIRS in which he argues ‘that it is a bad tree for cities and suburbs.’ The response from arborists around the sound has been as diverse as it is interesting. Our April meeting will be a lively panel discussion with ALJ and respondents. The original text and responses are available on line at PlantAmnesty.org (Doug Fir Debate, first page) and will be available in hard copy at the meeting. Audience participation is encouraged. Hosted by the Heritage Tree Committee. Bring food or a small donation. All are welcome.

MAY 1 & 2—Trees, People and the Law

Symposium, sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation. At the Center for Urban Horticulture. To register, or for more information, go to www.arborday.org

MAY 20—Tour of Belltown Gardens

Noon – 3pm

PlantAmnesty hosts this fascinating look at rooftop and balcony gardens, fancy pots and super-sized planters. Come see how people express their love of plants in the confined spaces of high density Seattle. This is the latest trend in gardening (you know, for your retirement home). Tour groups are limited to 8 people each. Costs \$10 for PlantAmnesty members and their friends or \$15 for the public. Send us the sign-up form below. Locations and information will be sent to you one week prior to the event.

JUNE 16—Summer Pruning of Fruit Trees

PlantAmnesty’s Fruit Tree Pruning Field Day. See class lists on page 15 for more information.

JUNE 19—PlantAmnesty Meeting of Like Minds

Topic—Small Gardens/Small Trees/Small Plants. Find out what’s new.



BellTown Garden / Pots Tour

of attendees _____ X \$10 for PA Member \$ _____

of attendees _____ X \$15 for Gen. Public \$ _____

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Tacoma Chapter Upcoming Events

For more information, call Lorey Donaldson at 253-759-5438

Pruning for Fun or Profit by the Guru Gardener at Tacoma Community College

Wednesdays, 2/07- 2/21 2007, 6 - 8 pm

Call 566-5020 for information.

Pruning Home Orchards by the Guru Gardener at Tacoma Community College

Thursdays, 2/28 - 3/14 2007, 6 - 8 pm

Call 566-5020 for information.

Meeting and potluck...

Tuesday, march 14th @ 6:30 pm

Metro parks building. A gentleman from the Rose Society will be educating us on rose care.

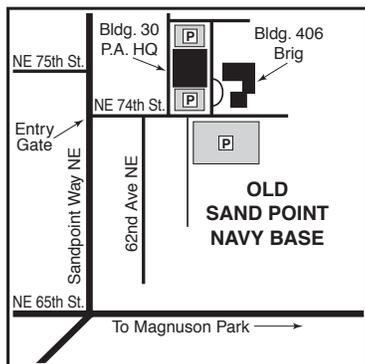
May meeting and potluck

Tuesday May 8th @ 6:30 Topic TBA

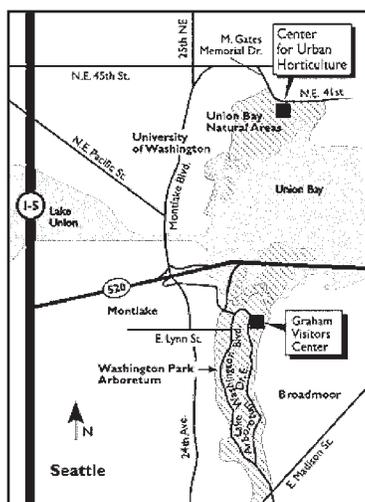
Pt Defiance garden show

June 1,2,&3rd

Need booth volunteers please....Free entry to show !



PlantAmnesty Offices, Classes and Plant Sale



FOR OUR MEETINGS
WE'VE MOVED BACK!

3501 NE 41st St, Seattle, 98105

Cass Turnbull's 2007 Master Pruner Seminar Series Sponsored by Fanno Saws

Join Cass and other experts for this 18-part series of in-depth pruning slide shows. Along with hands-on workshops, the Master Pruner seminars constitute a complete pruning course. Classes are good for ISA and Master Gardener continuing education credits.

Take one class—or take them all.

Sundays, 10 am to noon, at Sand Point Magnuson Park, 7400 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, 98115, Bldg. 406 “The Brig” (Enter on NE 74th St.). Follow the “Pruning Class” signs. \$5 for PlantAmnesty members, \$10 for the public for each session. No registration required—just show up. Questions? Call Cass at 206-783-9093.

March 11, Sunday: Trees II.

There's a world of tree information beyond basic pruning. Learn the basics of Hazard Tree Evaluation, construction damage to trees, and rehabilitative pruning for mal-pruned trees.

April 7, Saturday: Difficult Plants to Prune (Easter Saturday)

How to prune Rhododendrons, Hydrangeas, Callicarpa, Viburnum x bodnantense and Abelia. Includes basic pruning techniques, common pruning mistakes and corrective pruning.

May 13, Sunday: Panel of Experts

A panel of pruning experts will be assembled to answer questions from the audience. The event will be moderated and some lively discussion should ensue. Some potential questions: Is it really necessary to disinfect pruning tools? Can thinning conifer trees for safety do more harm than good? Can fruiting cherry trees be pruned for size control? How much does summer pruning inhibit water sprout production? What is ‘eradicative pruning’ and does it work? Two hours.

June 10, Sunday: Fruit Trees (guest instructor)

July 8, Sunday: Rehabilitative Pruning

September 9, Sunday: Renovate and Prune

October 7, Sunday: Pruning Horrors

November 12, Sunday: Japanese Garden Pruning

WORKSHOPS

June 16, Saturday: Fruit Tree Workshop with Seattle Fruit Tree Society and Seattle Tilth.
Located at Meridian Park – Wallingford area.

PLANT AMNESTY GARDEN RENOVATION WORKSHOP

WHO: For the public, professionals and Master Pruners

WHAT: Cass will give a slide show/lecture before the hands-on experience out in the yard. Topics discussed will be pruning, transplanting and landscape maintenance. The group will move through an existing over-grown landscape while on-the-spot evaluation of plants and pruning demonstrations are given. The class will then cycle between jobs to learn what the landscape has to offer.

WHERE: At a private residence within King County — selected for its neglected state and diverse plant material so as to provide class instruction on a wide variety of topics.

WHEN: March 17, Saturday: Spring Renovation Workshop, 10 am – 3 p.m.

COST: \$65 for PlantAmnesty members and \$75 for the general public. Make check payable to PlantAmnesty. Pre-registration is required.

QUESTIONS? Call PlantAmnesty at 206-783-9813. *See page 15 to sign up.*

Plant Sales Galore!

March 31 & April 1

Rhododendron Species Foundation Plant Sale
For more information, visit www.rhodygarden.org.

April 14, 10am – 2pm

Washington Park Arboretum's Early Bloomers Plant Sale. At the Plant Donations area near the Graham Visitors Center, this sale offers hundreds of unusual plant selections, as well as old favorites. More info at www.arboretumfoundation.org.

April 22, 10am – 3pm

Northwest Perennial Alliance Spring Plant Sale at Magnuson Park. Great plants from local nurseries and the NPA Borders at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, plus donations from members. More info at www.northwestperennialalliance.org.

April 28, 10am – 5pm and April 29, 10am – 3pm

FlorAbundance Plant Sale at Magnuson Park. Ann Lovejoy calls this the "Plant Sale of the Year". The Northwest's best specialty nurseries provide a glorious variety of plants. For more info, visit www.arboretumfoundation.org.

May 5, 8am – 5pm and May 6, 10am – 3pm

King County Master Gardeners' Plant Sale at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street. Plants from Master

Gardeners' own gardens and specialty nurseries, as well as garden art and gardening books. Free classes: for topics and times, check www.mgfkc.org or call 253-838-4713.

May 5, 9am – 3pm and May 6, 11am – 3pm

Seattle Tilth's Edible Plant Sale. Meridian Park, behind the Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Avenue N. Shop the largest selection of organically grown heirloom vegetable starts in Seattle. Details at www.seattletilth.org.

May 5, 9am – 2pm

Snohomish County Master Gardeners' Plant Sale at McCollum Park, Everett. Plants from Master Gardeners' gardens and specialty nurseries, plus garden art. For more info, visit www.snohomish.wsu.edu/calendar.htm.

May 12– Washington Native Plant Society Spring Plant Sale

10am - 4pm

At the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. Call 206-527-3210 for more information, or visit www.wnps.org



Mailbag

Hello Cass,

I just finished reading your new Guide to Pruning and loved it. Unlike most pruning books, I read (almost) every word. I have been pruning professionally here in south central Pennsylvania for almost 20 years. What I found most useful in your book was the pruning budget concept, and the discussion of how to avoid water sprouts. I have certainly been guilty of overthinning some of the plants you mention. I could really tell you have been "in the trenches"--thanks for all the work you do.

A few thoughts from my experience:

Yew Hedges/Shapes

I was taught to do thinning cuts in late winter/early spring in order to let in some light and encourage growth internally. I quickly go through sheared yews then and take out knobby growth and other small branches, pruning back to plumped up buds. You can hardly tell it's been pruned when I'm done

(no gaping holes). This helps the plant develop some growth inside, which gives a lot more options for keeping the hedge a reasonable size. Usually I shear in late June and maybe do a final trim in October.

Cutting Back Shrubs

I cut back more shrubs to the ground every year than you recommend and have found no ill effects. I do this for size issues or for foliage interest. In the eastern U.S., some of these shrubs like Vitex and Callicarpa pretty much die back anyway. I have repeatedly cut back the following shrubs without a problem: Cotinus, Callicarpa, Abelia, Spirea ('Anthony Waterer'), Vitex and certainly Buddleia. I believe Longwood Gardens cuts back many of their smokebushes year after year.

Thanks for helping me to feel less guilty about not disinfecting my shears more often. Keep up the good work!

Midge Sobolewski
Sobolewski Landscaping

What We Did in 2006

Last year PlantAmnesty doubled its events and stepped up the 'advocacy' end of things.

Advocacy Events

Mutilated Tree Protests in Lynnwood and Gig Harbor
Testified at Public Hearing in Shoreline re pruning or removing trees in greenbelts for views
Testified at Public Hearing (budget) in Seattle re support for Urban Forestry
Wrote Op-ed article for the P-I regarding The Draft Urban Forestry Plan
One Heritage Tree Dedication and Tour at Kubota Gardens
Six trees accepted into the Heritage Tree Program

Educational Events and Items

Slideshows and presentations: 55 presentations given to property managers, garden clubs, homeowners, lawn care crews, in places near and far (Chicago, San Francisco, Port Orchard, Juanita, Olympia, Tacoma, Everett, Silverdale, and Camano Island.)

Lovejoy seminar on Natural Lawn and Landscape Care
Ballard Garden Tour
Fruit Tree Pruning Field Day
Speakers' Bureau: created materials
Eight Renovation Workshops: three for P/A, taught five to other groups
Eight Master Pruner Classes
Articles published in TCIA and Fine Gardening
Four Pruning Topics published: Daphne, Viburnum davidii, Sarcococca and Leucothoe, Arbutus unedo
Two more slideshows converted to PowerPoint
The Renovation Book (The Complete Guide to Landscape Design, Renovation and Maintenance) was reprinted by PlantAmnesty. We sold 250 copies (\$2,000 profit to P/A). We distributed 300 pruning DVDs/ 20 Spanish version pruning videos.
We distributed 6,000 free Pruning Guides.
We sold 250 copies of Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning.
Staffed five shows: The Northwest Flower and Garden Show, ISA conference, Master Gardener Plant Sale, Pt. Defiance Flower and Garden Show, and Sustainable Ballard.

Media Outreach - 16 media events

Media coverage of protests: 5 articles, one Channel 7 evening news segment on May 11th
'Don't Try This at Home', article on bad pruning in The Everett Herald
Chicago Tribune article on selective pruning
KUOW interviews: one on urban forestry, one on pruning
Several mentions in Lovejoy and Easton. 'Why Go Whacky' etc.,

Services

Referral Service: 1,828 matches made (1,199 for arborists, 629 for gardeners)
Answer Line : 720 questions answered
Adopt-a-Plant: 295 adoptions
Six Membership Meetings including "Is Gardening Dead?"
Website Hits for Oct-Nov: 492,257
Arbor Day Prune at Wright Park:
Many large and beautiful trees pruned
Nasty Letter Writer: three letters of concern written plus one 'Kudos'

Financial and Support Events

BINGO with Ciscoe Morris
Plant Sale 'Lite'
Arborist's Donated Work Day
Sponsors and Grants: ISA, Fanno Saw, Islands Fund
PlantAmnesty 20th Anniversary Calendar of Arborists published
Fix-it Day
Founders' Day Picnic
Board Meetings (12)
Committee work done by the Education/Advocacy Committee, Tree Programs, Budget Sub-Committee, Heritage Tree Committee, the Tacoma Chapter and Plant Sale.
Tacoma Chapter excels! Boothing; classes, workshop, media events, and meetings are included above.

The Numbers

Total volunteer hours= 2,771 from Individuals and Committees
Total Direct Contacts to Public = 2,396 people attended classes, lectures, lessons
Total Indirect Contacts (via media) = 8,461,600

The Finances

Gross Profit \$91,740 – Expenses \$85,300 = Net income \$ 6,440

Top Five Income	Dues	\$19,400
	Donations	\$18,600
	Events	\$13,800
	Referral Service	\$11,500
	Sales	\$9,600
Top Five Expenses	Staff (3 part-time)	\$32,000
	Print & Copy	\$11,800
	(newsletter and literature)	
	Contractors	\$6,200
	(bookkeeper, teachers)	
	Postage	\$6,100
	Design & market	\$2,500
	(layout newsletter, etc)	

Berry Pop Quiz

Welcome, New Members

ELENA ANZALONE
CHRISTINE BASS
PAUL BLUMMER
VEN BOGET
ELIZABETH BROWN
NORM BUTKA
THERESE CHAMMPION
SHEILA CHIDSEY
SEAN CONNOLLY
KAYE DICKENSON-BOLDREY
BRUCE ENDICOTT
MARILYN ERREY
CARLENE FAITHFUL
SHERI FINEMAN
JOYCE FITZSIMMONS
SANDRA FORBES
H. EUGENE AND VIVIAN
FORRESTS
LESLIE FRANKS
RUTH GUSTAFSON
LONNIE HARPER
LINDA HENRIKSEN
ADRIANA HERNANDEZ
WILLIAM HIBLER
KARRIND HONDT
SINE HOUGH
CATHERINE KETRICK
KATHY KUNDERT
ANDREA LUNDBLAD
CAITLIN MOORE
WALTER MURPHY
NORMA PATTERSON
RACHEL PROCTOR
VICKERY PRONGAY
JUDITH ROBIN
KELLY SCHREER
KEITH SEINFELD
ELLEN SOLLOD
JANET STIRLING
MARK TAIANI
JANICE TALLMAN
N. JEAN TURNER
LINDA WALTIE
LINDA YOUNG

Berry Pop Quiz

By Gar Russo

1. What berry should fly back to Canada?
Checkerberries, cackleberries or gooseberry
2. What aquatic berry swims upstream?
Buffaloberry, salmonberry or deerberry
3. What berry floated downstream on a raft with Jim?
Huckleberry, raccoonberry, or squawberry
4. What political berry was once mayor of Washington D.C.?
Chuck Berry, Sandra Berry, or Marion Berry
5. What berry just can't shake off depression?
Boxberry, blueberry or elderberry
6. What kind of berries do skiers love?
Teaberries, snowberries or winterberries
7. What temporary berry disappears after sunrise?
Squawberry, dewberry or dingleberry
8. Wordsworth wandered lonely as what poetic berry?
Cowberry, cloudberry, or cranberry
9. Singer Otis Redding was "sittin' by the dock" of what berry?
Bayberry, moorberry or wineberry
10. The dried dung of what berry burns well in winter?
Buffaloberry, deerberry or pigeonberry
11. What baseball berry had a sidearm delivery?
Farkleberry, boysenberry or quisenberry
12. What berry hangs around naked statues?
Pigeonberry, marionberry or gooseberry
13. What contemplative berry likes to think about it first?
Pokeberry, mulberry or maleberry

Answers: 1. Gooseberry 2. Salmonberry 3. Huckleberry 4. Marion Berry 5. Blueberry 6. Snowberry 7. Dewberry 8. Cloudberry 9. Bayberry 10. Buffaloberry 11. Pigeonberry 12. Pigeonberry 13. Mulberry

Holiday Cheer for One and All

In December members enjoyed our annual Holiday Party, complete with mood lighting and live music. Thank you to the King County Hay Ride band and their toe-tapping tunes. Members dished up great food, starting with John Turnbull's delicious chili—thanks to everyone who contributed drinks or a dish! The stylishly set tables were courtesy of the creative genius of Judy Griesle, who added a touch of class to the festivities with linen tablecloths and real silverware! Julie Hale made a great poster of pictures highlighting the year's events. It roused great memories and enthusiastic conversation.

Our MC was PlantAmnesty founder, Cass Turnbull, who got the program rolling by announcing the 2006 Volunteers of the Year, **Marianna Clark and Sherry Perrine. Rich Ellison, Marlis Korber, and Lorey Donaldson** were named Plant Activist Award Winners — Congratulations! We appreciate your hard work and dedication to the cause!

The awards ceremony was followed by a video of last year's protest in Tacoma, filmed by Channel 7 News. PlantAmnesty marchers protested a row of butchered trees at a strip mall. Cheers changed to playful jeers as the property owner, in a save-his-reputation reply, suggested that "those people had nothing else to do". But he said he'll seek the "right help" next year. **SUCCESS!**

The evening ended with a spirited raffle. Thank you to all of Santa's helpers (complete with Santa hats): Denise Anderson, Lacia Lynne Bailey, Rose Brittenham, Marianna Clark, Juliette Cole, Rich Ellison, Mike Ewanciew, Judy Griesle, Julie Hale, John Kovarik, and John & Cass Turnbull. Your efforts made a most enjoyable time for everyone.

Hazardous Trees: The Second Storm

continued from page 5

And finally, I would ask that people respect the skill, bravery and knowledge that it takes to be a real arborist. I was surprised to hear that customers still balk at the rates of arborists (\$80-\$100/hr for regular tree work, twice that for hazard tree work such as is done after a storm, and \$100 hr for Assessments). These same people don't bat an eyelash when the plumber's house call costs a similar amount. The downside risk for a plumbing problem is sewage in your bathtub. In the tree business, the downside risk is a crushed house, or severely injured person. There are no small mistakes in the tree business. Each day the workers put their lives on the line. In the last year alone, I personally know of four arborists who have suffered major multiple injuries—head trauma, broken pelvis, broken ribs, vertebra, collar bones, and the like. Workers insurance and liability cost are huge. Tree work is among the most dangerous of professions - similar to logging, underwater welding, and explosives experts. Like an athlete, a tree climber is old when he/she is forty. The job is hugely physically demanding. But by then, hopefully, the arborist will have acquired that rare body of knowledge that allows him/her to provide accurate risk assessments, a job which requires and almost equal amount of courage. Think of the doctor who gives his patient a physical and issues a clean bill of health only to have him drop dead the next week. Tree Risk Assessments are an even more imperfect science, and yet arborists are willing to make judgment calls. A good arborist, one with sound judgment, training and years of experience is a rare commodity. Such a person has both a love of trees and a respect of the damage they can do. You will not be encouraged to keep a tree which is unsafe, nor told to remove one that is sound.

PlantAmnesty Referral Service 206-783-9813
PlantAmnesty.org
info@plantamnesty.org
ISA website –
www.isa-arbor.com/findarborist/findarborist.aspx
DNR link – www.dnr.wa.gov/wcfc/treecare



Adopt-A-Plant. You call, you dig, you haul, that's all.

PLEASE FILL HOLES AND LEAVE THE SITE TIDY

The PlantAmesty 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.

W Seattle: FREE WOOD CHIPS - call Joan 206.932.6081

Seattle: Ficus House plant approx 8 ft, call Jean 206.362.4230

Edmonds: Large rhodie "Cotton Candy" 25 years old. Flowers in varying shades of pastel pink with small red spots, openly funnel-shaped, frilly edges, about 4-5 in across, fragrant; in clusters of 12-18 flowers. Call 425.778.2625

W Seattle: boxwood, other shrubs, vining things available for adoption. We are relandscaping. Call Shannon 206.328.5629

I have two mature viburnum davidii, approx 2.5 - 3 feet. Contact Chris cfeldt1@earthlink.net

Magnolia: 2 New Zealand Flaxes 3' x 3', 3ft escallonia well pruned, 10 ft Cherry Tree. Joan 206.282.5248

Two red oaks,(quercus rubra) saplings approx 9 ft height. good health, in the wrong location, need more space to call home. Charmaine in West Seattle 206.933.1975

(2) Birch, European White, approx 12' tall, multi-trunk (one has two, the other three), approx 1.5" at base; (1) Hebe, unknown varietal, approx 4'Hx5'W, (1) Spirea (?? honestly don't know), yellowish/orange foliage, smooth reddish brown bark, 2'Hx2'W. All plants are healthy and in good condition. Pictures are available on request. Contact Tom at twarter@comcast.net

Sammamish Plateau: I have an acre of mature landscape plants and need to remove half of the trees and shrubs. I'm not sure what they are, but call me if you're interested. Rob, 425.443.4850

Junipers, golden cypress, "oriental" pine, photinia...more. Call Kathryn 206.369.3997

Fairwood, outside Renton. 4 ft x 4 ft shrub, long narrow leaf, white flowers. Call Denise 425.271.4049

Several mature boston ferns, lady ferns and oregon grape. Small seedlings, between one and four feet tall of western red cedar, douglas fir and western hemlock. Wedgwood (Northeast Seattle), call Cristi at 206-522-3403.

Madison Park: 12 older roses, pruned to about 2 feet, need a new home, call Susan 206.323.4331

Freemont: (1) Cryptomeria japonica - 4.5 ft high x 2.5 ft w; (2) 3 Cornus sericea "Kelsey" 2 - 3ft Kelsey Redosier Dogwood; (3) Dwarf Oakleaf Hydrangea - 2 ft. Call Terry, 206.545.1130

Montlake Terrace - 15 ft redbud tree, 10 - 12 ft wide. It's big, but it's beautiful! Pink flowers, red fall color, heart shaped leaves. Call Harriet 425.778.6009

Seattle - 2 large Rhodies about 2 stories high, in beautiful condition. Call Mary 206.465.5850. Very easy access - right near the front street

Morency Cherry. Trunk 8", approx 12 ft. Pruned yearly, bears fruit. Call 206.789.0793 or cell: 206.380.3934

Bothell, in the Thrasher's Corner area - Six to eight mature rhodys, 6 - 8 feet tall. They are all very healthy and bloom prolifically. Call William - (425) 485-0345.

4 - 5 Mahonia aquifolium, ranging from 3 - 6 ft need a new home. Call Lacia in Seattle, 206.356.7768

Protugese Laurel, 10' tall, by 6' wide. Call Gary at 206.369.1740, Lake City
Weeping birch 5' high 5' wide in a pot. Call Vicky at 206.285.3626, in Magnolia

Lilac 7' tall, 5' wide fragrant bluish-pale lavender blooms. Phinney Ridge area - Kathy at 206.543.6117

Skimmia available for adoption. With small white flowers, and red berries in winter, it's about 4.5' tall and 4.5' wide. Call Barbara in View Ridge. 206.524.4592.

I have some lovely free trees so I don't have to cut them down. They are an incense cedar, about 10-12', a purple rain birch about 12', a cut leaf birch about 10' and a crab apple with lovely profuse pink flowers about 6'. The incense cedar may be on the heavy side and it is fairly close to a native dogwood so a lot of care must be taken when we dig it up. I will help load also. Contact Lani at lanidoely@yahoo.com

WOODCHIPS? If you need any, we have plenty to get rid of. Our chipper makes nice small chips. Call Linda 206.363.6429

I am still in need of prunings to "dress" out a fake hedge in a set for Seattle Children's Theatre. The set originally came from Australia and they used a native eucalyptus.

We are not so picky - but a small narrow leaf will work best.

We can haul away stuff your guys cut - or cut it ourselves - whatever works.

We are putting the set together now and would love to have foliage this week - but the show will run until March 27th and we will undoubtedly need to "refresh" our prunings periodically - so we will need an ongoing supply. I estimate that a mix of longish, 3'-4', and shortish, 1'-2' stems with leaves is what we need, shorter than 1' will not be very useful. About 4 full pick-up loads will do the hedge once.

Any help you can give will be much appreciated. I can get tickets for you to come and see the show!

*thanks,
edie - ediew@sct.org>*

Adopt-A-Plant is a **PlantAmnesty** membership perk. But you don't have to be a member to put a plant up for adoption. No money shall be given or received for these plants; if you are hired to transplant any, of course your labor (only) may be charged. Keep neighborly!

Important Notice:
The Adopt-A-Plant and Cyber Library password: The user ID is pruner and the password is boxwood.

The listings for Adopt-a-Plant are updated regularly on the PlantAmnesty members-only web site.

Are You a Photosynthesizer Sympathizer?

Join PlantAmnesty Today!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Adventitious Buddy \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cambium Club (Lifetime) \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (new rate). \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of PlantAmnesty \$2000.00 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FELCO-teer \$60.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income/Student \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Defender \$120.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm online - Please send me the password to the members only cyber-site. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heartwood \$250.00 | |

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

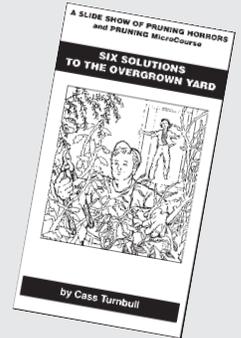
New Member(s) Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

- This is a gift so the check's enclosed. Send them a gift card with my name.

ALL NEW MEMBERS GET A FREE 2 HR. VIDEO OR DVD OF CASS GIVING THE WORLD FAMOUS SLIDESHOW OF PRUNING HORRORS AND PRUNING MICRO COURSE!!!
 Send them a free video or DVD (circle one) me a free video or DVD (circle one)
 English Spanish (include your address).



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IF YOUR COMPANY HAS A CORPORATE MATCH PROGRAM. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR COMPLETED CORPORATE MATCH FORM WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP. PLANT AMNESTY IS A NON-PROFIT, 501 (C) 3 ORGANIZATION.

Please charge my Visa MC Exp. Date _____ / _____

Card # _____ - _____ - _____

Print Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Please mail this form to: PlantAmnesty, PO Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0377

I would like to help PlantAmnesty by being a volunteer. Please contact me.



PlantAmnesty Spring Garden Renovation Workshop

\$65 for PlantAmnesty Members and \$75 for General Public

Saturday, March 17 - Spring Workshop: # of reservations _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Please make check payable to PlantAmnesty and Mail to: P.O. Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0377



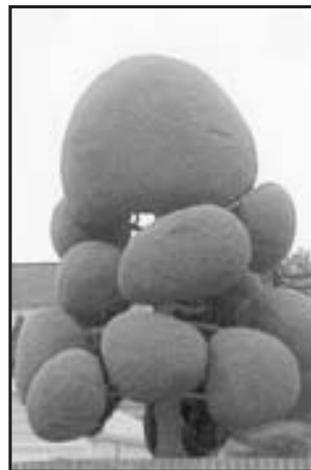
My Friend, Stubby



Lift and Separate



Broccoli Pruning



Balloony Tunes

PlantAmnesty

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

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