

Master Gardener June Workshop – From the Ground & Up

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Franklin Pierce High School, 11002 18th Avenue East, Tacoma WA (morning) & FP Farm, corner of 95th & Waller (afternoon)

8:00-8:45a	Registration & Socializing	Commons/Hall – coffee/tea & treats			
8:45-10a	First Sessions	Room 121 Bill Peregrine – Biochar & Soil Other Soil Amendments for Improving Soil Structure	Room 120 Laurie Pyne – Bees, Pesticides & Pollinator Populations – Pollinators, Plants & People	Room 119 Scott Vergara – To Clip or Not to Clip – Pruning	Room-Commons Lisa Taylor – Small Space Gardening – Grow More Food on a Tiny Footprint
10-10:15a	Break	Commons/Hall			
10:15-11:30a	Second Sessions	Room 121 Craig Cogger – Protect & Keep Your Soil – Cover Crops, Mulches & More	Room 120 Dennis Paulson – Dragonflies	Room 119 Scott Vergara – Rhodys, Japanese Maples, Hydraengeas, & Other Shrubs – Culture & Pruning	Room-Commons Lisa Taylor – Everlasting Harvest – Growing a Year Round Edible Garden
11:30a-12p	Lunch	Cafeteria			
12-1:30p	Intro & thank yous (10 min) - Dale Keynote (60 min) Q&A & Book Sales	Cafeteria	Daniel Mount	Gardening in the Pacific Northwest – The Japanese Influence	
1:30-2p	Break	Heading to Farm	Carpools		
2-3:30p Hands-on Sessions	<u>In the Orchard & Surrounds</u> Jim Kropf – A Walk About the Farm – Identifying Weeds	<u>In the ADA Garden</u> Cyndi Stuart – Developing a Hummingbird, Butterfly & Bee Friendly Garden	<u>In the Classroom</u> Gina Comfort, Krish Nelson & Propagation Group – Propagation of Soft, Semi- & Hardwood Cuttings	<u>On the lawn</u> Scott Vergera – Maintaining a Hypertufa Garden – Culture, Soils, Plants & more, & Building a Hypertufa Garden	<u>In the Community Garden</u> Lisa Taylor – Farm Walk About – Becoming a Garden Naturalist

FROM THE GROUND AND UP – SPEAKER BIOS AND WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

First Morning Sessions (8:45-10am)

Biochar and Other Soil Amendments for Improving Soil Structure

A big part of being a successful gardener is understanding how to build your soils to improve its tilth and structure. With so many products on the market purporting to be the next gardening panacea, how do you know if you are investing your gardening monies wisely?

Bill Peregrine

Bill is a designer, builder and care professional of organic and sustainable landscapes. He has a passion for understanding Nature's natural systems and replicating those systems in the built landscape. He will discuss various soil amendments, including Biochar, and give his observations of 30+ years of working with horticultural soils. At the end, you will understand the philosophical basis and practical applications for improving just about any soil. Healthy soils are the lifeblood of healthy plants and it all starts with good productive soils.

Bees, Pesticides and Pollinator Populations - "Pollinators, Plants and People"

Have you heard the buzz about bees and butterflies? In this presentation we'll look at why pollinators are so important to all of us, get a glimpse into their fascinating world and why their populations are declining. We'll also talk about the amazing relationship between plants and pollinators and how to create garden spaces that provide resources that they desperately need. Every garden, no matter how large or small, can provide food for these crucial insects! We'll cover the special considerations and plant materials that will attract and provide healthy food sources for these species and enhance your garden space.

Laurie Pyne

Laurie grew up in the Midwest, in a small town where connection, nature and family values formed the foundation of her professional and personal life that ultimately led her to Washington State. A deep and profound reverence, respect and love for the natural world has informed her gardening, writing, teaching, beekeeping and environmental conservation advocacy. She is president of the Olympia Beekeepers Association (2011-2017) and a Board Member for International Bird Rescue, Preserve the Dunes, Wild Rescue, and OBA. She is also a Master Gardener and works with the Thurston County Master Gardeners providing pollinator education to kids and to new Master Gardener classes.

Pruning – To Clip or Not to Clip

A basic overview including the principles and practices for pruning and training plants in a landscape. Scott has been "hacking and whacking" for over 40 years and he'll share some of the tricks he has learned from his own training/experiences and from other skilled practitioners of the art. We'll cover questions you should ask yourself BEFORE you start pruning! What is the point of the plant: screening, shade, fruit, flower and how do you prune to achieve those goals? When does the plant bloom and how does it respond to various pruning techniques like heading back and thinning out cuts? Should I do it myself or hire someone? Other than the 3-Ds should I just leave it alone? We'll discuss the "right plant right place" approach and tricks to help reduce the amount of time you have to spend dealing with overgrowth from improper pruning. We'll also briefly explore the seldom discussed techniques of environmental tweaking and management to control plant growth. Tool selection, use, care and safety also covered.

Scott Vergara



Scott has over 50 years of experiences with a multitude of different plants. From collecting and breeding and propagating to growing and selling plants in both commercial (retail & wholesale) and hobbyist settings. He started growing and selling cut flowers when he just turned 7 years old. He currently owns The Bogs Of Doom[®] and Woodland Gardens near Port Orchard, WA and specializes in carnivorous plants (emphasis on hardy types) with additional interest in associated bog & aquatic plants. Scott has a Bachelor degree in Horticultural Science from The Ohio State University with major emphasis on plant breeding & genetics, micro propagation and minor emphasis on plant pathology and entomology and has conducted post-graduate work at Rutgers in ornamental plant breeding and plant pathology. He has travelled to Central and Eastern Tibet on a sanctioned plant/seed collecting expedition. Scott has worked at several

botanical venues including as director for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, and has taught a wide selection of botany classes at both Olympic and South Seattle Community Colleges.

Small Space Gardening: Grow More Food On A Tiny Footprint

Growing vegetables and fruit in small urban spaces is fun and easy. Join Lisa Taylor, garden educator and author of the “Maritime Northwest Garden Guide” and “Your Farm in the City; An Urban Dweller’s Guide to Growing Food and Raising Animals” in a lively discussion about growing vegetables vertically, in containers and raised beds. Learn how to reimagine your garden and maximize your food production. Explore container and vertical garden basics for growing a diverse and successful edible garden. We will identify vegetable and fruit varieties that are best suited to small space gardening.

Lisa Taylor



Lisa is a freelance garden educator and author of the Maritime Northwest Garden Guide, 2nd ed. and Your Farm in the City. She is passionate about teaching everyone where their food comes from and how to grow it. Lisa developed her garden educator chops at Seattle Tilth where she developed and ran the children’s garden programs for two decades. Her garden programs provide hands-on experiences that introduce students of all ages to edible plants, worms, healthy eating, seed saving and other wonders of an organic garden. She is currently a Garden Educator in Residence, teaching an original garden-based literacy curriculum at schools in Seattle and Shoreline. Lisa’s Garden Critter Academy is a puppet

and music program that teaches about the importance of insects and spiders in our gardens. For Lisa, eating is the main reason for growing plants.

Second Morning Sessions (10:15-11:30am)

Protect & Keep Your Soil - Cover crops, mulches, and more to reduce garden runoff and protect water quality

Cover crops serve the gardener in many ways, including protecting and improving the soil, suppressing weeds, and attracting beneficial insects. In his presentation, Dr. Cogger will outline the benefits of cover crops, the challenges in growing them, and how to choose and manage cover crops for vegetable gardens. Using cover crops and mulches to prevent runoff and erosion in urban gardens will be discussed.

Craig Cogger



Craig was a Research and Extension Soil Scientist at WSU Puyallup from 1984 until his retirement in 2015. He has done research on organic farming systems, compost production and use, biosolids management, cover crops, greenhouse gases, pesticide fate, soil health, and food safety. Craig has a PhD degree in soil science from Cornell University. He has taught extension soils classes to Master Gardeners and made presentations and prepared publications for many agricultural, professional, volunteer, and student groups.

Dragonflies

Dragonflies and damselflies are often called birdwatchers' insects. Active and brilliantly colored, these four-winged

predators fly everywhere over unspoiled wetlands. Their very different-looking larvae are dominant predators in the water below. They have the best vision and the most versatile flight of any insects, and their sex life is similarly superlative. In a profusely illustrated lecture, Dennis Paulson will tell us all about the lives of these interesting creatures and how they fit into their environment.

Dennis Paulson

Dennis retired from his position as the Director of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound a decade ago and is busier than ever. After receiving his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Miami, he has taught college and adult-education courses about natural history for five decades. One of his primary goals as a biologist has been to blend the science of biology with the study and appreciation of nature. His special research subjects have long been dragonflies, and he has studied them all over the world. He has written over 50 scientific papers on the Odonata, also a booklet *Dragonflies of Washington* and the definitive field guide *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West*.

Rhodys, Japanese Maples, Hydrangeas & Other Shrubs – Culture and Pruning

How to approach the pruning of Rhododendrons, Japanese Maples, Hydrangeas and Clematis. Four common groups of plants that puzzle many gardeners and are all too often public victims of massacre pruning, akin to a visit by the Viking Hordes. Discussion will share tips for seasonal work and how to make a thoughtful approach to renovation of mature specimens. General techniques and cultural hints for these specific groups that can be applied to many other plants.

Scott Vergara

See Session One for Bio

Everlasting Harvest – Growing a Year-Round Edible Gardening

Eat from your yard and garden all year. Join Lisa Taylor, author of the “Maritime Northwest Garden Guide” and “Your Farm in the City; An Urban Dweller’s Guide to Growing Food and Raising Animals” and garden educator extraordinaire in a spirited discussion about growing vegetables year-round. We will explore the Maritime Northwest planting calendar and learn how to organize the garden to grow more food. We’ll identify varieties that thrive in our climate and add nutrition to our table. We will also investigate food preservation strategies so that thrifty gardeners can extend the harvest throughout the year.

Lisa Taylor

See Session One for Bio

Keynote Speaker and Lunch (12-1:30pm)

Gardening in the Pacific Northwest – The Japanese Influence

FLORA JAPONICA: Six Classic Garden Plants That Make Every Pacific Northwest Garden a “Japanese Garden”. It is hard to deny the Japanese influence on Northwest garden style. But more important still are the plants of Japan, some so ubiquitous they can be found in the finest gardens and the lowliest commercial parking lots. Daniel will share his extensive knowledge of growing these plants and offer you a glimpse of some interesting cultivars.

Daniel Mount



Daniel Mount comes from a long line of gardeners and farmers. He received his first shovel for his second birthday and spent most of his youthful summers in a vegetable patch or the woods. Daniel received a BS in Botany from the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee in 1986. His career as a gardener began shortly after that. His gardening career has taken him to such far-flung places as the Island of Elba in Italy, the Hudson Valley, and Rhineland, Germany. He is currently settled on a small farm in the Snoqualmie Valley. He is an avid plantsman, writer and garden designer.

Afternoon Sessions (2-2:30pm) – At Franklin Pierce Farm

Identifying Weeds – A Walk About the Farm

Weeds are a major issue in home gardens, lawns, flower beds and other areas. Most people lack good identification skills that would be beneficial in optimizing control strategies. This practical workshop will utilize a simple weed identification

key to narrow common weeds down to the correct family. This will make it much easier for you to identify the weed by its correct common name.

Jim Kropf



Jim is currently the Natural Resources Program Director for WSU Extension. He is also the Director of County Administration for the 39 county extension offices statewide. He has been a faculty member for WSU Extension for 36 years. He was the Area Agronomist in Chelan and Douglas Counties for 14 years followed by four years as the Area Horticulturalist for Pierce and King Counties. In addition to providing technical production skills for farmers, he focused on direct marketing, training new farmers, and on-farm research related to horticultural crops. Jim was raised on a small, diversified farm in western Washington. He has a B.S. and M.S. in Agronomy from Washington State University.

Developing a Hummingbird, Butterfly and Bee Friendly Garden

Whether you are looking to add a few irresistible perennials to an existing flower bed or planning a garden from the bottom up, join Cyndi Stuart, former field biologist and now Earth-Friendly Farmer to see what it takes to lure the Hummingbirds, Butterflies and those hard-working Bees to your backyard. We will look at key plants, design elements, and issues you need to consider when drawing in wildlife.

Cyndi Stuart

Cyndi is all about wonders in the garden and the joy of growing and eating your own food. With more than 20 years of experience growing edibles on both a small and large scale in the Pacific Northwest, she provides insight and humor to keep listeners engaged. What's the point if it's not fun?! As a former perennial plant buyer (Watson's Greenhouse &

Windmill Gardens), field biologist and now a full-time Earth-Friendly Farmer, garden speaker, continuing education instructor and cookbook author, there is a deep well from which to pull tips, techniques and advice.

Propagation of Soft, Semi-Hardwood, and Hardwood Cuttings

Learn how to propagate soft (green) and semi-hardwood cuttings. In this hands on workshop, Pierce County Master Gardener Propagation group members will show you how to start new plants from your own softwood, semi-hardwood and hardwood cuttings. Participants will collect cuttings from Hydrangeas, prepare them, stick them in rooting media, and will then get to take their propagated cuttings home. Principles taught in this workshop can be used on nearly every plant that can be propagated by cuttings. Cuttings will be provided by the Master Gardeners conducting the workshop. They will also cover when and how to take hardwood cuttings (this portion of the class is not hands-on because June is not the ideal time for hardwood cuttings).

Pierce County Master Gardener Propagation Group – Pierce County Master Gardeners Luginia ‘Gina’ Comfort, Krish Nelson, and other members of the Propagation Group

Gina and Krish are members of the PCMG ‘Propagation Studies Group.’ The Prop Group was started in the Fall of 1991 by a group of Pierce County Master Gardeners and has been in existence now for 16 years. The Group has grown in knowledge and size over the years. They meet once a week on Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 12:30pm, from September to mid May and welcome all Master Gardeners to participate. In the summer months they work on the Four Seasons Garden at the Puyallup Demonstration Garden, where they showcase their propagated plants. The Prop Group provides an enormous amount of unique and unusual plants for PCMG annual Plant Sale held the last weekend of April.

Farm Walkabout: Becoming A Garden Naturalist

What’s that bug? Is this a weed? When should I harvest? Join Lisa Taylor, garden educator and author of the “Maritime Northwest Garden Guide” and “Your Farm in the City; An Urban Dweller’s Guide to Growing Food and Raising Animals” in a unique garden walkabout. We will wander the FP Farm community garden to explore plants and creatures. We will identify beneficial insects, pest critters and other invertebrates. We’ll nibble on flowers and wild plants as we discussion what’s going on in the garden and how to keep extend the harvest.

Lisa Taylor

See Session One for Bio

Maintaining a Hypertufa Garden – Culture, Soils, Plants, and more

How to successfully raise little garden gems that would get lost if planted in the general landscape or only thrive in soil diametrically opposite of any in your property. Who hasn't swooned over some gentian, cyclamen, mini conifer, small bulb or dwarf willow then plunked down hard currency and after planting lost track of them only to find a lonely label two years later. Discussion covers general culture, growing media, plant choices and maintenance of plants. Workshop also covers:

Making Hypertufa Containers

Hands On, Learn By Doing workshop using hypertufa (lightweight concrete) to create durable and functional containers that work in small intimate spaces or provide visual & physical separation in larger landscapes. This is a fun but kind of dirty workshop so wear yard work clothing. You will make and take home a small hypertufa container (less than 14" outside diameter) and learn tricks on how to create larger ones.

Scott Vergara

See Session One for Bio

Materials Fee: If you wish to participate in the hands-on portion of the class, please be ready to pay a Materials Fee (\$5.00) at the beginning of class (cash or check only) to cover the cost of the hypertufa medium. If you only plan to attend the workshop to learn more about hypertufa and hypertufa culture, i.e., as an observer, you will not need to pay the Materials Fee.

List of specific items you need to bring to participate in the workshop:

Items to be brought by attendees:

- rubber or latex gloves
- dust mask (annoyance type or simple bandanna) if you want to try mixing the material as it is dusty.
- plastic trash bag: big enough to place mold inside and seal up.
- Wear clothing that you don't mind "trashing". Cement and various stains nearly impossible to remove. This is a hands-on messy project. The results are awesome and worth the mess.
- A mold:

Small open "box" or container (plastic, cardboard, wood) to be used as a mold. You don't have to fill it up so depth isn't as critical. Avoid molds with deep indentations or rings/ridges inside as it makes it difficult or impossible to

release the concrete from the mold without destroying the mold.

A good size to start with would be a mold of about 12” OUTSIDE diameter. This would give you a planting area of about 9” across with walls about 1.5” thick. Even though it is “light weight” concrete it is still heavy. Larger than this gets much heavier.

Small plastic dishpans or round 12” “color bowl” planters or 2-3 gallon nursery pots all work really well. A 10x12 x6” deep cardboard box works really well too.

Material to line the mold: Cardboard requires a plastic liner otherwise it absorbs moisture and falls apart too quickly. Sheet plastic tends to make a very smooth surface that requires some extra hand tooling to make it look more rustic. If you want a “textured surface”, burlap works really well. Fresh fern fronds, thick leaves, seashells, etc. can be used to give a faux fossil look.

Please note that the hypertuffa takes several weeks to cure properly and reach a good strength so you won't be planting it until late summer. Ideally it will “weather” some outside to reduce the surface alkalinity which is important if plants prefer acid conditions.