

PlantAmnesty

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WINTER 2015

How to Find—and Keep— a Good Landscape Gardener

By Cass Turnbull

Periodically, people come up to me and say that they have a hard time finding and keeping good garden help. I can imagine it would be difficult. For one thing, how are you supposed to know if they are any good? You can't just ask them, "Are you a good pruner?" It's like asking someone if they are a good driver. Nobody says no. Personal referrals don't help much. A lot of folks, including some of your friends, like the look of mal-pruning and overplanted or mis-sited landscapes. In fact, many people insist that bad work be done—as in, "Please top my birch and shear my camellias." Lots of folks confuse *hard working* with *skillful and knowledgeable*. The Better Business Bureau can help you find out if a prospective business person is a crook, or has bad customer service, but they don't test for skill and knowledge. As for small one and two-person businesses—well, they are not likely to be included in a commercial referral service or to have an online presence.

Maybe you found the name of a good gardener, but they didn't seem interested in getting your business—they're always too busy. And they charge three times the hourly rate of the neighbor's guys.

If you want the straight skinny on how to hire and keep a good gardener, skip to the end of this article. But for some informative background, continue here.

First off, there are two different groups working in the industry. As my friend Denise puts it, "Gardeners have dirty knees; landscapers smell like gas." These two groups work in

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PlantActivist Update

During the three months since our last newsletter, PlantAmnesty offered two pruning classes and two pruning workshops (one in Spanish) to 134 students. Twenty-five students graduated from our Master Pruner Series. We also dedicated an awesome Giant Sequoia in Ballard as a Seattle Heritage Tree. At our October Meeting of Like Minds, speaker **Todd Murray** (the entertaining entomologist) informed us about pests, diseases, and cures affecting plants. We got a huge donation from our new best friend, Gail Hongladarum. We staffed

booths at an event given by the Thornton Creek Alliance and at the 2014 Green Gardening Workshop. The Take Action Button was successfully moved to TreePAC.org, and Cass was quoted in media about the TreePAC substation issue (Ballard News Tribune, KIRO TV news and KUOW radio).

PlantAmnesty arborists donated a day of work to PlantAmnesty in November bringing in over \$6,000. Bless them! The participating companies were: **Grun Tree Care, Fluent Tree Professionals, Legendary Tree, Symbiosis Tree, Seattle Tree Preservation, Madison Park Trees, Northwest Arborvitae, and The Tree Stewards**. Last quarter we also organized a retirement party for **Mark Harman**, owner of Stonehedge Tree Experts—'twas the end of an era.

We celebrated these and all our achievements at the Annual Meeting and Holiday Party in December. As promised the event was a beautiful, delicious, and fun. Jack and the Holly-Dazed Singers entertained with fractured holiday songs. The familiar tunes were sung with new hort and arbor lyrics: Oh, Holey Tarp, Crazy Blower Guy, and Rhody, Rhody, Rhody to name just a few. Retirements, nominations, thank-yous, and elections were held. Award winners were announced: **Susi Bryer, Susan and John Thompson, Marianna Clark, John Hushagen, and Exteriorscapes**.

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Landscape Gardeners *continued from page 1*

different worlds with different schedules.

Landscapers

The mow, blow, go company, I'll call it Turfco Northwest, must schedule their visits to your yard once a week, because that's how often the grass needs to be mowed. Employees do most of their work standing up and are skilled with power equipment—mowers, string trimmers, power hedge shears, and blowers. They pride themselves on mowing efficiently and quickly, with straight lines and good clean up. The boss's dream is to acquire as many clients as possible in the same neighborhood. That cuts down the unbillable drive time. He wants to grow the business and add more employees, trucks, equipment. Every year he hires temporary workers because the workload collapses after the first freeze and the grass stops growing. The employees avoid hand weeding, or anything that requires bending over. They weed with a hoe and rake and prune with hedge shears. They like to fertilize everything as much as four times a year. They can tell you a lot about turf—thatching, red-thread, and why you need more fescue in your lawn. They rib each other at lunch and safety meetings. You suspect some of them might be smoking pot. They know practically nothing about pruning or horticulture and don't really want to. There's always a guy on the crew who feels he is an artist with the hedge shears. He's been sculpting shrubs for years and thinks pruning is a matter of personal taste.

Gardeners

Gardeners, on the other hand, do most of their work by hand and often on their knees. They don't like to mow grass or do hedges. In fact, they want to enlarge your beds and get rid of some grass. They have small companies, and they use fan rakes, tarps, hand pruners, plastic buckets, and hand weeding tools. They like plants, not turf. They always wear a red-handled hand pruner in their holster, and sometimes even work in tennis shoes and shorts. The garden company—I'll call it Forest Friends—comes to your yard once a month for 3-7 hours because one month is the time shot weed takes to germinate, grow up, and go to seed. Sometimes a pruner will stare at plants and then disappear into the shrubbery to work on them for hours at a time. They will use power equipment but don't spend much time doing so. They don't push chemical fertilizer; they push mulch and organic products. They even move spiders so they won't break their webs. They know the names of all the plants. They are sometimes kind of flakey or a little weird or lack communication skills, either talking too much or not at all. They seem unwilling to do many things you ask them to do and are always saying things like, "the plants like this" and "that hurts the plants." You suspect they might smoke pot.

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PlantAmnesty

PO Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0377

206-783-9813

www.plantamnesty.org

Email: 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 mismanagement).

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 —

General Manager Laura Watson

Office Manager Margaret Metz-Holland

— Officers and Board Members —

President Cass Turnbull

Vice President Keith Dekker

Treasurer Jack Bautsch

Secretary Annette Freeman

And Others

— Newsletter Contributors —

Editorial Committee

Graphic Design

Contributors

Photographers

Artists

Printing & Distribution

Cass Turnbull, Laura Watson

cbgraphics, Constance Bollen

Margaret Metz-Holland,

Cass Turnbull, Laura Watson

Many, Various, Anonymous

Kate Allen

Color Printing Systems and
AAA Mailing Services, Inc.

Please send us articles, short jokes, artwork, tales,
Adopt-A-Plant and Green Share information.
The newsletter is a benefit of membership.

Hire

Hire one company to do mowing, leaf raking, and hedges. Hire another company to do the bed work. Get the landscape company by looking for them in your neighborhood. Ask if they belong to any professional organizations and to see their insurance card. On the other hand, the gardener company can come from anywhere. They should be a small company. They do pruning and other bed work like weeding, transplanting, mulching, pots, perennial bed management, small design improvements, composting, and raking.

Look for your gardener in the winter, when they are hungry. Hire somebody who has been in the landscape maintenance business for a few years, but maybe not twenty. For the best deal, look for somebody who has worked for a company for a few years and is just striking out on their own. Ask your local nursery, master gardener, or your friend who loves gardening for recommendations. See if the prospective gardener has attended a horticulture school. Interview three gardeners to find the one with whom you feel simpatico. Walk around the yard with them and ask questions. You want a company that does **not** want to expand. They should know the names of 80% of the plants in your yard. You should tell them you want to top a tree. They should try to talk you out of it. If they are new in business, tell them you are looking for regular maintenance ALL YEAR round. If they've been in business for over seven years, they will say they are really busy, which

Major Donors

Alison Andrews	Madison Park Tree
Joanne Bender	Northwest Arborvitae
Tracey Bernal	Kahlia Root
Ellen Blackstone	Janet Schmitt
Wendy Chisholm	Seattle Tree Preservation
Ann Erickson	Judy R. Shigo-Smith
Fluent Tree Professionals	Steuber Distributing Company
Kenneth Gross & Suzanne Armour	Symbiosis Tree
Grun Tree Care	Susan Stoller
Helen Hepp	Tree Stewards
Gail Hongladarom	Withey-Price Landscape & Design
Legendary Tree	

they should be if they are any good. If you really want them, trick them by first asking for a consultation. After they have seen your yard, but while they are still on site, ask if they could possibly fit you in for a day of work, even if it is months away. Get the date right then. Put it in your calendar to call and remind them how much you are looking forward to their visit two weeks beforehand, and reconfirm two days ahead. Once you become a regular client, you will be on automatic.

Keep

To retain your gardener and keep the quality of work high, I recommend the following. Slightly wince at the bill but do not argue or complain. Include a sticky with your check that has a smiley face and says "Thanks! The garden looks great." Be appreciative but don't be too nice. Check the work that is done, and every once in a while mention tasks that weren't completed. Be slightly disappointed if they call to change dates. Give a year-end cash bonus and offer cookies from time to time. Hint to the owner that you prefer that he/she come to the yard in person and not just send employees. If they

are new in business, recognize there will be a period when the prices will go up and quality will go down as they learn how to handle the rigors of managing a business. And know that there is satisfaction in having a gardener you can trust to know what you like, to know what to do, to do good work quickly and efficiently, better that you could—someone who will care for your garden better than they would their own, and sometimes even be a friend with whom to share the joys of your garden. 🌱

Are You Ready?

Are you and your garden ready for spring? Is everything raked up, pruning done, perennials cut back, weeds weeded and the mulch spread? No? Well any minute now the buds will be expanding, the perennials emerging, the shot weeds blooming, slugs hatching, and then all horticultural hell will cut lose! You need to hire a PlantAmnesty Gardener to get your garden ready before it's too late. Remember they want to work in the rain. If they don't work, they don't eat! info@plantamnesty.org; 206-783-9813.



Butterflies

Butterflies are not just beautiful and magical, they come with wonderful words to describe them—like chrysalis, metamorphosis, and instar. Other words describe their metamorphic journey: there is an imaginable stage, and the adult butterfly is called the imago. Best of all, a group of butterflies is called a rabble, a kaleidoscope, or a flutter. 🌱

From the Garden of Cass Turnbull...

I'm too busy—I mean way too busy. This condition never seems to let up much anymore. Worse yet, it seems to afflict almost everyone I know. We should have an acronym as in, "It can't be helped, she's WTB." As a result of my WTB syndrome, my emails get sloppy, which makes me sound uneducated. I don't get back to people, making me seem rude. And I can't get to the smallest of tasks, making me seem negligent. Terrible.

Working too hard indoors is not a healthy way to live. I feel guilty when I try to relax, so sometimes I rest by pursuing a useful distraction. For example, this year I did a turnabout and became enamored with ironing. When you iron too fast the wrinkles don't come out. So ironing forced me to slow down. Once I succumbed to the pace, I found it very gratifying.

To escape the pressures of living the WTB life, I sometimes launch a search for some special object. This year the special object was a ribbon shredder. Or I will fixate on a silly project like making a display cake for the PlantAmnesty cake walk. I used calking for icing and put metal stars and pink ribbon on it as decoration. I've made a walking tree, a partial solar system, a steam punk time machine, and, well, you get the picture.

But what I really like to do best for my mental health is take note of nature.

One day this summer when I was tearing around the house trying to get a hundred things done at once, I glanced outside my bedroom window and noticed a little dried leaf caught on a strand of spider silk floating about four inches above the ground. Huh, I thought, it seems to be hovering there. Then, as if it were an act of God, the sun suddenly illuminated a perfect spider web, complete with garden spider, about ten feet above it. The strand and its leaf were suspended from the bottom of that web. I thought, as you might, that the silk strand and

leaf were just the result of some accident that broke a web. But this looked—and I wondered if it could be—on purpose.

A good 45 minutes later, after consulting the Google, I learned what was happening. The spider uses the silk strand and the attached leaf on purpose to steady the web as it is being built. The leaf can be raised and lowered by Charlotte the spider as needed. She keeps the leaf, even as she reweaves the web every day or two, recycling the old webbing by eating it. A Charlotte it had to be since, as I learned, all the spiders in orb-webs are girls. The boys are quite small and just come to, well, visit. Then they are off to find another fair Charlotte. One of the stranger things I have ever seen—you may want to skip viewing this on YouTube—is a pair of orb-weaver garden spiders mating. It goes on for a while and is slightly creepy.

Anyway, after having googled all this, I had to take off for an errand. When I returned an hour or two later, sure enough, the leaf had been drawn up eight feet to just below the web. Huh, I thought, isn't that interesting.

Since then I have spotted and followed several more stranded leaves to their webs. How did I miss this before? One of the reasons I love gardening is that I get to see cool and beautiful things all the time. As I work in the outside world with weather, living things, and earthy and sweet smells, I am refreshed and rested, and my mind is released to think new thoughts. This is called soft fascination. Look that up on your Google.

I wish everybody knew and believed what we gardeners know—that gardening is good for whatever ails you. And for what ails your planet for that matter. So be sure to rest your mind and enrich your day by going outside and tending something in the garden—as soon as there is a break in the rain. You'll discover it's the perfect antidote for your too busy world. 🌱



Who can you trust with your garden and trees?

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info@plantamnesty.org

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Painless New Ways to Support PlantAmnesty

Employees of Google, IBM, Microsoft, and others get any donations they make to PlantAmnesty matched by their employers. Microsoft even gives matching funds when employees volunteer for a nonprofit. But now there are two new ways anyone can help—through everyday purchases.

Fred Meyer

Support PlantAmnesty just by shopping at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card! All you have to do is link your Rewards Card to PlantAmnesty (go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) and use your Rewards Card when you shop at Fred Meyer. PlantAmnesty will receive a small portion of the purchase price and you still get all your Fred Meyer Rewards!

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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support PlantAmnesty every time you shop at Amazon, at no cost to you. Simply go to smile.amazon.com, which looks and acts just like amazon.com, and select PlantAmnesty as the charitable organization you wish to support. From then on, every eligible purchase you make at AmazonSmile will result in a donation to PlantAmnesty. Most items are eligible for an AmazonSmile donation—eligible products are marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on their product detail pages. 🌳

• • • Tree Trivia • • •

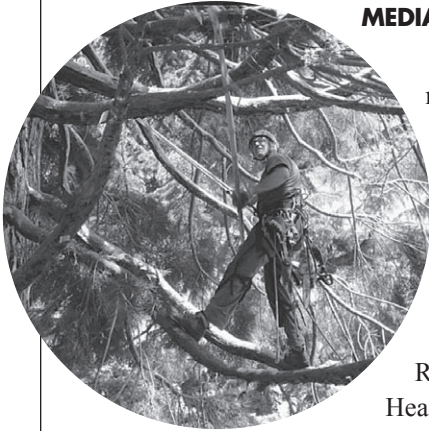
(answers on page 9)

YOUR NAME _____ YOUR SCORE _____

1. What is Washington State's official tree? Common name is ok. _____
2. Adam got into big trouble for eating an apple from this tree. It is the tree of _____
3. The village smithy sat under this kind of tree. _____
4. The Lorax speaks for this tree. The tree is _____
5. Shel Silversteing wrote about this tree. _____
6. This US president was famously guilty of arboricide. _____
7. Name six critters commonly reside in NW trees _____
Bonus points, name three non-NW animals that live in trees _____
8. The name of the large American folk hero who was a logger _____
Bonus point, the name of his companion animal _____
9. In the 1812 novel a group of stranded people build and live in an elaborate tree house. The novel's title names that group. Book title is _____
10. In what movie does an upper class widow fall for a young arborist, to the dismay of family and friends? _____
11. Name the treelike giants of middle earth _____
For extra points what do they consume? _____
12. What species of tree was mistaken for a magnolia by early travelers to Elliott Bay? _____
13. What are three Seattle neighborhoods named after trees? _____
14. What kind of tree is in A Tree Grows in Brooklyn? _____
Extra points for Botanical name _____
15. How do trees get on the internet? _____

What We Did in 2014

GOAL 1: RAISE AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM OF POOR PLANT MAINTENANCE



MEDIA OUTREACH

PlantAmnesty had 11 media events reaching an estimated 891,000 readers/listeners/watchers. The two best were the Seattle Times article, “Fighting for Urban Trees” and the TCIA Magazine article, “Exceptions to the Rules: When Is Topping and Heading OK?”

DISPLAY BOOTH

We staffed seven booths at various events, talking to an estimated 1,000 people with pruning questions and needs. Sixty-five volunteers spent 183 hours setting up and staffing booths. Boothing venues included Northwest Flower & Garden Show, Prune-a-thon at Sky Nursery, Washington Native Plant Society Spring Plant Sale, Seattle Tilth Harvest Fair, Thornton Creek Alliance, Washington Native Plant Society Fall Plant Sale, and Green Gardening Workshop.

NASTY LETTERS (ACTUALLY, LETTERS OF CONCERN)

At PlantAmnesty seven letters and emails written and sent—two were atta boys—one to the UW grounds crew and supervisor and one to the first nation that cares for the only gas station in the region known to not shear its shrubs. Two complaints were sent to ground crews, and one to the owner of an unimaginably mal-pruned Japanese laceleaf maple.

The Take Action Button on the PlantAmnesty website moved to the website of our sister organization TreePAC (<http://treepac.org/take-action/>). Through that button 300 emails were sent to Seattle’s City Council and Mayor offering advice on tree preservation issues; encouraging municipal Urban Forest

funding; and requesting better planning and enforcement for the Urban Forest. TreePAC had its own ups and downs, fundraisers, media events, working on the Save Our Substation project, Seattle’s Comprehensive Plan, and the Seattle Tree Ordinance of the future.

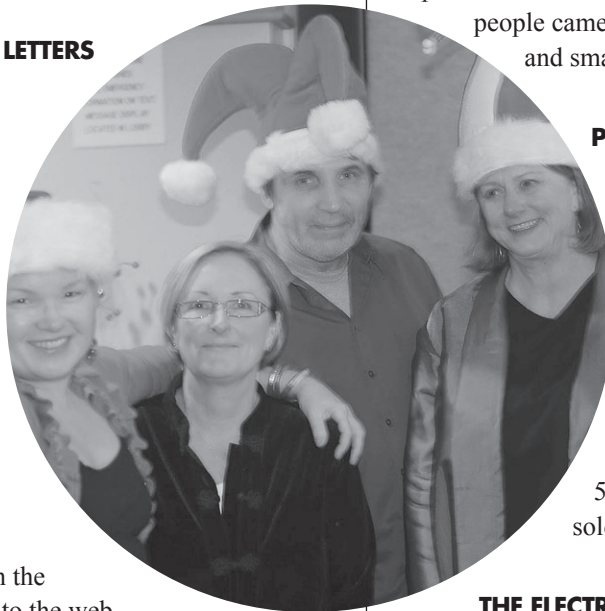
GOAL 2: PROVIDE SOLUTIONS

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

We gave 57 talks, classes, and lectures on pruning to 2,638 students, including eight in Spanish. Talks ranged geographically from Seattle to Yakima, Spokane, Phoenix, and Canada and were presented to Master Gardeners, professionals, school groundskeepers, companies, designers, homeowners, tree advocates, arborists, educators, pesticide applicators, garden clubbers, and church goers.

We provided seven hands-on pruning workshops, two in Spanish with an additional three Spanish classes given independently by our teachers **George Ortiz** and **Gonzalo Yepes**. We graduated 25 Master Pruners—from the PlantAmnesty classes at Magnuson Park, from the Center for Urban Horticulture Series, and from the Snohomish Master Gardener Series.

The Urban Forest Symposium of 2014 was our 6th event cosponsored by the University of Washington’s Botanical Gardens. The theme, Climate Change and the Urban Forest, was well received and topics were well communicated by our expert and entertaining speakers. The diverse audience of 175 people came from Pugetropolis cities and towns, large and small, and they voted it the best one yet.



PRINTED WORD

In 2014, PlantAmnesty published nine original articles, including Beating Horsetail, Corn Futures: Leaf Raking for Pleasure and Profit, Tips from the Seasoned Professional, Party Eyes, West Coast Strata Weeding and Pruning, The Two-for-Every-Tree Myth, Philomen and Baucis, Ladders, and Misadventures of a Do-Gooder: Chickens. We gave away 5,000 Pruning Guides, many in Spanish. We sold \$1,819 worth of pruning literature.

THE ELECTRONIC WORD

This year we got over 102,000 hits on our new website. We created and posted on our YouTube Channel ten new short pruning videos, including: Hinoki Cypress, Drooping Leucothoe, Deadheading Rhodys, Stransvesia, Pieris,

What We Did in 2014



Sasanqua Camellia, and Mature Weeping Cherry Trees. Our YouTube Channel has had 230,622 visits (including nearly 1,000 to our Spanish videos) and has 683 subscribers. This year we had more tweets and even some FaceBook action.

REFERRAL SERVICE AND PRUNING HOTLINE

PlantAmnesty's Good Gardener and Arborist Referral Service made 924 matches in 2014. Staff members, Laura Watson and Margaret Metz-Holland, fielded another 541 inquiries, mostly about pruning, though several were sad tree stories.

FREE PRUNING

Our goal is that good pruning not be for the rich or able-bodied alone. In June, a loosely organized group of volunteer arborists and volunteer board members pruned the horticulturally significant plants and heritage tree collection at the intriguing Wallingford property of 82-year-old Marilyn Bechlem. The landscape had suffered from deferred maintenance, but all was expertly restored to its former glory. A group of experienced PlantAmnesty volunteers also donated a day of expert gardening in August to Heronswood, the famous garden owned by the K'lallam Indian tribe. Well-known horticulturist Dan Hinkley guided our endeavors among the maze of rare and unusual plants. During three other workshops, we also contributed our labor and that of the students to the Ryther Child Center, McAuliffe Park in Kirkland, and the Center for Urban Horticulture at the UWBG.

GOAL 3: ENGENDER RESPECT FOR PLANTS

All our activities work to engender respect for plants and appreciation for their contribution to us and the ecology. But some activities do so more than others.

HORTICULTURAL BINGO ▼



THE SEATTLE HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM

In 2014 the Heritage Tree Committee evaluated 24 trees. Of that, 16 were accepted—nine were deemed Best in Neighborhood and five were deemed Best in City. One other was deemed a Heritage Tree, but the Committee is still undecided about whether it is Best in City or Best in Neighborhood. We hosted a fine Heritage Tree Dedication of a Giant Sequoia in Wallingford. **Ben Roberts** joined the committee. A large heritage Elm located in the south end of Seattle was severely topped. The incident was covered on the front page of the Seattle Times (http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2024305935_treecanopyxml.html).

FUNDING

Most of our funding comes from membership dues and donations from members, including the GiveBIG Fund Drive in May, the Arborist Donated Work Day in December, and the Annual Appeal (i.e., The Begging Letter) in December. We earned money from our fabulous events: Bingo, the Garden Tour, the Sky Nursery Prune-a-thon, and the Urban Forest Symposium. We also received funds from our generous sponsors: **Davey Tree Expert Company, Groundswell NW Save Our Substations, Molbaks, Seattle Garden Club, Seattle Tree Preservation, Steubers, Thundering Oak, and Trees for Life, Seattle's Office of Sustainability and the Environment, the Seattle Parks Department, Washington Association of Landscape Professionals, and the West Seattle Garden Tour.**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND VOLUNTEERISM

Our happy members enjoyed the camaraderie and benefits of being a part of PlantAmnesty. They received discounts on events and classes, attended our six fabulous Meetings of Like Minds, and listened to speakers of interest for free. Our members, numbering over 1,200, availed themselves of the adopt-a-plant listings of 133 plants looking for new homes. Those folks who do not live in the immediate area still benefited with access to our super-secret Cyberlibrary and enjoyed reading our emails of interest and the funny and informative, world famous PlantAmnesty Newsletter. Mostly, they were heartened that work is being done, and change is being made "to end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs caused by mal-pruning"—which is proof that it can and is being done. 🌳

The Year of Density *by Cass Turnbull*

The year of 2014 in Seattle has been the year of density, specifically density without infrastructure, including green infrastructure. The development of Urban Villages and single family in-fill was breath-taking in its speed, the immense size of the structures, and the perversity of some of the building configurations (apodments, two packs, three packs, four-packs, the faulty towers, the wedgies, and the massive D-blocks. Most of the new apartment and office buildings have only landscape remnants around the edges. You know, ornamental grasses along the front of the building and parking strips planted so densely that your passenger is trapped in the car. Those count now as the landscaping requirement.

In the new BIG houses, the American backyard has been reduced to a small green square—the BBQ pad. Or sometimes it turns into the secret parking spot. The four-packs have traded their yards in for hidden, shared garage access courtyards. It must be fun to maneuver a full sized SUV in one of those.

The trees and the traditional Seattle landscapes are being sacrificed everywhere for everything: for mega-houses, for Accessory Dwelling Units, for office towers with waterfront views, for roads, for mass transit, for the economy, for...for...for...density.

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for density. We all know that, done the right way, it is a good and necessary thing. But we have embraced an unfettered density that is stealing the soul of our city. There will be no neighborhood character and no livability for the city dwellers of the future. We're selling off the little green triangles along the roads. The craftsman bungalows are squeezed between three story skinny houses, if they're not torn down altogether and replaced by a McMansions. A two person household in a McMansion isn't density; it's a waste of space and resources. There are fewer and fewer vacant lots to play in, fewer rope swings, forts, and tree houses, no funky old buildings, hole in the wall cafes, or mom and pop corner stores.

Recently I've been driving through the light industry areas of town, in Fremont, Interbay, the north canal, and the Duwamish. I've been looking at their stacks and piles of cast offs and machinery sitting behind chainlink fences, interspersed with fixed-up and painted old houses, and dilapidated ones. I'm saying goodbye to wooden buildings with glass windows, to welding and machine shops, to artist's lofts, to hangers, to places that repair stuff and to one-story anything. I'm saying good-bye to the real mixed-use land. I



Photo from OneHomePerLot.com

Emmett
Watson,
R.I.P.

never thought it would someday become a new sort of industrial use land—slick and featureless, and without a spot of green anywhere to clean and cool the air, to stop the run-off, and to sooth the weary worker.

I've been saying good-bye to Seattle's water views, too. They used to be everywhere, to be seen by everyone who traveled the roads along the lakes, the canal, and Elliot Bay. And at the bridge approaches, from Dexter and Aurora, and then there is that view of the Olympics, the water sparkling, and ferry boats crossing Elliot Bay—the one seen from the viaduct.

The city's views will ALL belong to the wealthy soon. The rest of us will be driving in a tunnel. Well, we'll be in cars, I'm not sure we'll be moving.

The destruction of Foster Island for the new 520 bridge is the perfect image of our time. The massive concrete road structure that is being built seems like a juggernaut eating its way through the wetland in stunning slow motion. It is nothing short of spectacular. Every time I cross the bridge I look at the advancing and uncaring machinery and try to gauge its progress. I try to see if the beaver lodge, the heron, and the golden swamp cypress are still there. After the requisite impact studies and obligatory handwringing, it is a fact that the green spaces, the trees and native areas, are always taken—taken because it makes more sense, because it costs so much less money, or because it makes so much more money than the alternative. They call it balancing competing needs, except it is never balanced in favor of the trees. Is there anything more heartbreaking than the sign proclaiming the 'determination of environmental non-significance'?

So I wonder, is it time to move away, or to push back, or just to cultivate one's own garden, as Voltaire advised so long ago? 🌱

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Laura Retires

Cass Turnbull



All good things must come to an end, so we would be wise to take note when times are good and when things work well. Instead, we mostly notice what's not going our way. I'm happy to report that I did take note and am grateful for every moment of the very long and good run PlantAmnesty has had with Laura Watson as the manager of, well, of everything in PlantAmnesty, including me.



She announced that she will be retiring at the end of March after helping us find the person who will take over the position—I can't say *replace her*, as nobody could do that. Laura has a rare combination of skill sets and personality traits that made her both a great administrator and a people person. She could do so much—enroll volunteers, finagle good deals, sort out messes, rise to the occasion, weather the crisis, drill into the details, push through, dig in, analyze, master the technicalities, sweet talk, think, help, and persevere.

But I am mostly grateful for her ability to put up with me, making my work possible, and for being my friend. Although she will be spending more time with Leroy, her menagerie (two cats, three chickens, and a hive full of honey bees), and grandsons Augie and Leo, rumor has it that we won't be seeing the last of her just yet. That's because, as some of our members have already figured out, with PlantAmnesty the deal is *once in, never out*. ♣♣

PlantAmnesty Seeks an Energetic, Organized Person for Part-Time Position of General Manager

Do you have strong computer, communication and office skills? A positive and friendly attitude? Do you enjoy working in a casual environment and being immersed in a wide variety of interesting activities? Then, you may be interested in applying for a position with PlantAmnesty. Laura Watson, PlantAmnesty's General Manager (GM) for the nearly seven years, is retiring.

The GM updates and oversees the PlantAmnesty website, recruits and coordinates volunteers, and reserves venues and equipment for events. In addition, the GM supervises and trains staff, reviews and edits written materials and publications, and works closely with the PA Board and Finance Committee.

To request a complete job description and application form, please contact PlantAmnesty at (206) 783-9813 or send an email to info@plantamnesty.org. Applications received by January 31 will receive first consideration. ♣♣

••• Answers to Tree Trivia Quiz •••

1. Western Hemlock, *Tsuga heterophylla*
2. the tree of knowledge of good and evil
3. chestnut (spreading)
4. *Truffula*
5. The Giving Tree
6. George Washington
7. Squirrels, birds, bees, possums, raccoons, carpenter ants, bears, rats, bats, treefrogs, bugs. Monkeys, koalas, snakes
8. Paul Bunyan, Babe
9. Swiss Family Robinson
10. All That Heaven Allows
11. Ents, Marijuana
12. Madrona, *Arbutus menziesii*
13. Fircrest, Laurelhurst, Mapleleaf, Madrona, Magnolia, Pinehurst, Holly Park, Cherry Hill, Hawthorn Hills, Cedar Park
14. Tree of Heaven –*Ailanthus altissima*
15. They Log-on

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 11 Master Pruner Class:

Pruning Fruit Trees

(See Classes on page 12 for details)

Wednesday—Sunday, February 11—15 Northwest Flower and Garden Show

PlantAmnesty's booth at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show this year will feature new posters of our ever-popular gallery of pruning and shearing horrors. Stop by and see us at our corner booth (# 2516) on the edge of the plant market. On Sunday, February 15, **Cass Turnbull** will be speaking at 12:30 pm in the Hood Room on the topic *Getting Started with the Right Cuts: Pruning Your New Tree*. If you would like to volunteer to staff our booth for a two- or three-hour shift (and get a free ticket to the show for the day!), contact Laura Watson at 206-783-9813, x3, or laura.watson@plantamnesty.org. No experience is necessary, you will be with a veteran.

Sunday, February 8 Master Pruner Class: Roses

(See Classes on page 12 for details)

Tuesday, February 17 Meeting of Like Minds

The Outreach Committee is hosting this meeting. At press date, the speaker and topic have yet to be determined (maybe bees). These gatherings are potlucks, although we don't have a strict rule that you have to bring food. In addition to good food of much variety and quantity, we have beer, wine, an auction of hort stuff, t-shirt sales, and news of future and past PlantAmnesty events. New people are especially invited to enjoy the company of like-minded folks. It is free and open to the public. Find us at NHS Hall at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street in NE Seattle.

Welcome New Members

Shannon Adams
Carolyn Alcorn
Rich Appleton
Amy Armock
Nicole Ashford
Kathleen Atkins
Alexandra Ayers
Oliver Bailey
Susan Bangen
Ellie Bender
Jan Berialut
Irving C Cannon
Chris Cantt
Kelly Carter Mortimer
Leanne Dalders
Marnie Dangerfield
Melanie Davies
Tracey De La Cruz
John Disbro
Kai Fujita
Marci George
Susan Gregory
Marilyn Gremse
Connie Henderson
Genie Higgins
Cliff Hirsch
Mike Hutcheson
Gretchen Johnston
Suzanne Juergensen
Katie Kerfonta

Doreen Kindred
Michael Knoll
Dan Kolton
Diane LoPriore Pryor
Laura Lynch-Miller
Jeanne Matthews
Theresa Miller
Barbara Orcutt
Patty Patterson
Corey Pawlak
Bill Peregrine
Melissa Richards
Michelle Schrade
Deb Sparrow
Patricia Spence
Erin Spencer
Catherine Stanford
Mark Stewart
Luther Stone
Meredith Stone
Susan Swanson
Zack Thomas
Mary Traverse
John Vik
Carol Williams
Becky Yoshitani
Sharon Yossef
Herman Yu
Grace Yuan

Saturday, February 28 Sky Nursery Prune-a-thon

Come see us at Sky Nursery on Saturday, February 28, when we put on our Fifth Annual Prune-a-thon. We will offer many free pruning classes on two stages all through the day, on topics like Japanese maples, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, fruit trees, berries bushes, and more! **Free Mini Garden Designs**—if you bring along a photo of an area in your yard you would like to rework, our professional garden designers will give you a free garden-design consultation. And, of course, we will have our PlantAmnesty booth with our gallery of pruning/shearing horrors and great information on pruning the right way, as well as informational booths of some of our horticultural sisters, like the Master Gardeners, Seattle Tilth, and the Seattle Tree Fruit Society. If you are available and inclined to help us put on the best Prune-a-thon ever, we need people for set up and take down, boothers, greeters, and more! It's a good way to contribute, network, and

make new friends. Contact Laura Watson at 206-783-9813, x3, or laura.watson@plantamnesty.org.

Sunday, March 9 Master Pruner Class: Rehabilitative Pruning

(See Classes on page 12 for details)

Save the Date—Wednesday, May 20th Urban Forest Symposium

This year's theme is **For What It's Worth: Valuing the Urban Forest**. Topics covered: new information on green utility values, research on health savings, co-benefits, case studies, and how to effectively communicate the value of trees to decision makers.

Tuesday, June 16th Meeting of Like Minds Dan Hinkley talks on one of his favorite subjects. TBD

2015 It's the Year of the T-shirt

Lawenda, our horticultural fortune teller, said 2015 would be the year of the T-shirt. Have you started your collection of strange, educational, funny and/or beautiful PlantAmnesty shirts?

PlantAmnesty's most popular tees are the ones with the two different leaf designs by Dan Gilchrist on them. Now they are combined on one shirt, for you. The front, pictured here, is of Northwest Trees leaves. The back is Northwest Native Trees leaves. Each tee is hand made by Rich Ellison our resident, dreadlocked radical tree hugger guy. He screens the designs onto a soft, heavy weight, 100% cotton T-shirt. The leaf color is graduated from green to gold, and the contrast between design and shirt colors are as stunning as a Filmore concert poster. Beautiful! They come in two base colors: one is dark—Cardinal red, and one is light—Pistachio green. To see those colors, go to <http://www.sanmar.com/sanmar-servlets/CatalogBrowser?productId=PC61&prodimage=&swatch=Lime&top=Y>. Photos of the actual screened PlantAmnesty 'Leaf' T-shirts with trippy print colors, will be available for viewing on the PlantAmnesty.org website....someday soon.



CIRCLE SIZE. Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL

CIRCLE COLOR, #____ in Dark Red, #____ in Light Green

Get several, because it's cheaper that way. To receive a potluck t-shirt, specify size only. And see what comes back in the mail.

POSTAGE AND HANDLING (P&H) 1-3 TEES ADD \$6 / 4-6 TEES ADD \$13

LEAF T-SHIRTS #____ X \$15 EACH = _____

POTLUCK T-SHIRT #____ X \$10 EACH = _____

ADD P&H POSTAGE AND HANDLING (SEE ABOVE) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Clip and send to PlantAmnesty T-shirts division, PO Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0377

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PlantAmnesty Workshops

Upcoming Pruning and Garden Renovation Workshops

Spring—Saturday, March 21, 2015, 10am—3pm

Fall—Saturday, September 19, 2015, 10am—3pm

Fall **(in Spanish)**, Friday, October 9, 2015, 8:30am—3:30pm

The Renovation Workshop is a popular hands-on all-day event that features a rare 3:1 student-teacher ratio and real-world experience. Students will learn pruning and creative solutions for the overgrown garden as an entire yard is renovated during the class. The day begins with a lecture followed by hands-on experience out in the yard. Topics discussed will be pruning, transplanting, and landscape maintenance. The group will move through an overgrown landscape while instructors give on-the-spot evaluations of plants and demonstrations of pruning. Workshop participants will then cycle between jobs to learn what the landscape has to offer.

The workshop typically takes place 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. All participants receive a pruning DVD and handouts on various pruning topics.

PlantAmnesty's Fruit Tree Field Day

TBD, 10 am—3 pm

First, in a morning lecture, an expert in the field will cover the basics of fruit-tree pruning. The lecture is followed by an afternoon of live fruit-tree pruning demonstrations in small groups. This workshop will take place at a site in the Seattle area.

These workshops are for home gardeners, landscape professionals, and students in the Master Pruner Program. Complete details and materials will be sent to students a few weeks prior to the workshop.

Questions: PlantAmnesty at 206-783-9813 (please leave a message) or info@plantamnesty.org. For more information about the Master Pruner classes check out: www.plantamnesty.org.

Preregistration is required for all workshops—space is limited.

Master Pruner Series Sponsored by Steuber Distributing Company,

308 3rd St, Snohomish, WA 360-568-2626

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

Spring Renovation Workshop

Saturday, March 21, 2015

_____ # of PlantAmnesty members @ \$75.00 = \$ _____

_____ # of non-members @ \$85.00 = \$ _____

Fruit Tree Field Day

TBD 2015

_____ # of PlantAmnesty members @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

_____ # of non-members @ \$45.00 = \$ _____

Fall Renovation Workshop

Saturday, September 19, 2015

_____ # of PlantAmnesty members @ \$75.00 = \$ _____

_____ # of non-members @ \$85.00 = \$ _____

Spanish Renovation Workshop

Friday, October 9, 2015

_____ # of PlantAmnesty members @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

_____ # of non-members @ \$45.00 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City

State

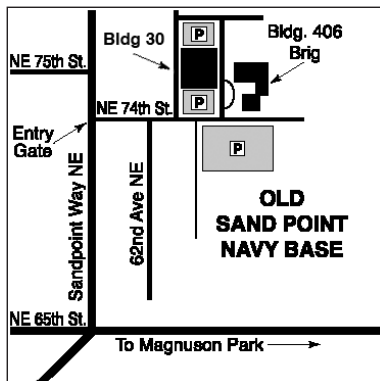
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Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

You may pay by credit card or check. Please make checks payable to **PlantAmnesty**.

Mail completed form and check (if applicable) to: PlantAmnesty, PO Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0377

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PlantAmnesty Offices,
Classes and Events

PLANTAMNESTY PRESENTS: Cass Turnbull's Master Pruner Program 2015 Pruning Classes

Pruning expert Cass Turnbull and guest instructors teach topic-specific pruning techniques in this series of in-depth classes and workshops. The Master Pruner Program is the set of classes and workshops that, when completed, certifies the student as a Master Pruner. These classes are open to home gardeners, landscape professionals, and horticulture students. Complete the entire series to earn a certificate or just attend a few classes. Horticulture students can apply their college pruning classes towards certification. Master Gardener and ISA CEUs can be earned. No pre-registration is required for the Sunday morning classes.

The complete Master Pruner Course is also offered through University of Washington Botanical Gardens (UWBG) at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) on weekdays in winter 2015. For more information, contact CUH at urbhort@u.washington.edu or 206-685-8033.

WHERE: Warren G. Magnuson Park, the Brig (Bldg #406)
7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, 98115

WHEN: Sundays, 10 am to noon, *except for Workshops*

COST: \$20 per class, \$15 for PlantAmnesty members,
\$5 for horticulture students and native Spanish
speakers

Upcoming Pruning Classes

Sunday, February 8, 2015—Roses

Learn the basics of rose pruning—hybrid tea, shrub and climbing roses. Tools and timing are also covered. *Taught by Keith Dekker*

Sunday, March 8—Rehabilitative Pruning

Learn the three most common forms of mal-pruning (tree topping, over-thinning of trees and shrubs, and inappropriate shearing) and how to fix trees and shrubs that have been mal-pruned. Included is discussion of waterspouts, suckers, radical renovation techniques, and crown restoration. *Taught by Cass Turnbull*

Sunday, April 12—Easy Plants to Prune

This class covers basic cuts, basic plant habits, and what Cass Turnbull calls the pruning budget. Then five plants that are relatively easy to prune are discussed: nandina, evergreen azalea, lilac, camellia, and yew. *Taught by Cass Turnbull*

2015 Schedule

- 1/11 Pruning Fruit Trees
- 2/8 Roses
- 3/8 Rehab Pruning
- **3/21 Spring Reno Workshop**
- 4/12 Easy Plants
- 5/10 Difficult Plants
- 6/14 Art or Atrocity
- **TBD Fruit Tree Field Day**
- 7/12 Trees 2

August – no class

- 9/13 Renovate/Prune
- **9/19 Fall Reno Workshop**
- **10/9 Spanish Pruning Workshop**
- 10/11 Tool Talk
- 11/8 Hackables, Shearables, and Untouchables
- December – no class

Also sponsored by Steubers Distributing Company, 308 3rd St, Snohomish, WA 98240, 360-568-2626

Questions? Email info@plantamnesty.org or call PlantAmnesty at 206-783-9813.

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

The PlantAmnesty Adopt-a-Plant list is available on our website for members.

If you do not have access to the internet, please call us at 206-783-9813, and we'll mail you a current copy of the complete list.

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 things neighborly!

PLEASE FILL HOLES AND LEAVE THE SITE TIDY

North Seattle: Six *Japanese yews*, *Taxus cuspidata*. The tallest is 10' tall—the rest are a bit smaller. Planted too close together and yearn to be in a bigger space. Beautiful evergreens that do well in Seattle year round. Low maintenance and non-messy! Contact Shelly at 206-417-6584.

North Seattle: *Japanese Fire Vine* currently about 6' tall. The coloration is wonderful. Unfortunately it's encroaching on another very mature tree. The access is fairly easy. Contact Lynda at 206-297-0384. 12/12

Camano Island: HOUSEPLANT—One 7' tall, 20-year-old, ***fig tree* (*Ficus 'benjamina'*)**. Needs a new home where it can get bigger. Contact Dolores at 206-310-5443. 12/9

Magnolia: HOUSEPLANT—A *coffee tree*, 8' tall by 6' wide. Likes bright indirect light, no drafts. It does bear fruit, coffee cherries. Contact Lorrie at lorrie.scott@gmail.com. 12/9

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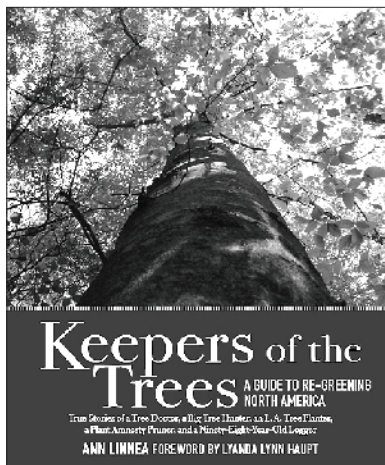
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GREENSHARE: Vinni Gupta is a seasoned techie passionate about horticulture, landscape design, organic land care and the culinary arts, looking for opportunities to work for like-minded people. She is offering her **professional services in both IT and horticulture**--she has plenty of experience in both areas. Details of experience and areas of expertise are available upon request. Contact Vinni at vinigupta@hotmail.com or 425-785-7156.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ ☐ I want to receive the newsletter ONLY electronically

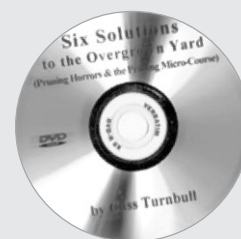
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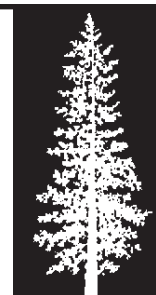
(Lynnwood) www.edcc.edu

Lake Washington Institute of Technology

(Kirkland) www.lwtech.edu

South Seattle Community College

(West Seattle) www.southseattle.edu



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