

JULY — AUGUST 2012 ISSUE NO. 183

SEATTLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FEDERATION MEMBER



**The Madison Trestle**—This rare photo from Feb. 28, 1912 looks south at the large timber trestle that once spanned the deep gulch formed by Arboretum Creek (photographer's view is from current site of the Washington Park playfields). See Arboretum story on p.4. © Seattle Municipal Archives Photograph Collection

### Neighborhood Hosts First Bastille Day Festival

By Lindy Wishard, GMVCC President

The neighborhood of Madison Valley will host their first "Bastille Bash" on Saturday, July 14, on East Madison Street between 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Avenues. From 3–8 p.m. guests will enjoy Bastille Day celebrations and indulge in Seattle's selfproclaimed European village with French inspired food from some of the city's most acclaimed restaurants, as well as wine tastings, live music, complimentary spa services, one-day sidewalk sales, giveaways and a variety of other special offerings hosted by Madison Valley boutiques and businesses.

Tickets for food and wine will be sold at the event along East Madison Street. Small plates will be available for purchase for \$2-6. A wine passport will be available for a \$10 donation and will allow guests to taste wine at participating retail shops. Entertainment will include French band **Rouge** playing from 5-8 p.m., as well as troubadours, jugglers and kids activities in front of Sugarlump consignment shop.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Children's Response Center, a local nonprofit that provides unduplicated, essential legal and counseling services to children under 18 in east and north King County, who have experienced severe abuse, trauma and child crimes. For more information please visit <u>www.childrensresponsecenter.org</u>.

#### Third Time's the Charm for Washington Park Play Area? By Ann McCurdy

Twice so far, Madison Valley residents Michelle McKelvey and Ann McCurdy have attempted to get a play structure installed near the swings in Washington Park (the south end of the Arboretum near the playfields). The first attempt, in 2010, failed after CleanScapes decided their \$50,000 community award would go to another project. Their second attempt, in 2011, was when the Seattle Parks Department encouraged them to apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant. This grant proposal was rejected, despite being called a great idea, due to annual maintenance costs projected once the play structure was in place.

McKelvey and McCurdy thought they were done championing the project. Then they heard about the 2012-2013 Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund. This fund is focused on large-scale community initiated park development or property acquisition projects. Criteria for the fund emphasizes projects which include "health benefits" (play equipment!) and "restore or extend the life of a park" (play area renovation!). We have already sent in our proposal letter and will hear over the summer whether the Parks Department thinks our idea is feasible. *Play Area cont'd p. 4...* 

## Our Summer Issue... Into the Great Outdoors!

GMVCC news briefs.... 2 EDITOR'S note.... 3 COMMUNITY center... 3 ARBORETUM history... 4-5 ARTS and culture... 6 CONSERVATORY centennial... 7 GREENBELT preservation... 8 GARDEN workshops... 9 EVENTS calendar... 10

#### THE VALLEY VIEW



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#### 2012 GMVCC Officers

President: Vice President: Secretary: Treasurer: Lindy Wishard Dan Schmitt Cathy Nunneley Lindy Wishard

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Editor & Layout: Nori Hawkins Ads & Submissions: valleyviewED@gmail.com Next Submission Deadline: August 21st

Gonline at Facebook.com/TheValleyView

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\*The Valley View reaches 2,200 homes and businesses in the Madison Valley area. It is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November.



## **GMVCC** News Briefs

#### Wednesday, May 16th Council Meeting -

President Lindy Wishard called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Introductions were made. Elections of Officers for 2012 were held. Lindy Wishard will now be serving as Treasurer as well as President, and the other officers will remain the same.

**New Merchant Website:** Lindy projected the new merchant/ community website for members to view and explained how it will positively impact our ability to communicate to the community.

**New City Legislation:** Multi-Family Parking Requirements: builders will not have to provide parking, as public transit is available for tenant use. Commercial Zoning Changes: residential structures can now be built without commercial entities on sidewalk level. Mobile vendors with temporary permits may be allowed. Backyard Cottage Requirements: calculations for height requirements are now based on the surrounding zoning, which could result in larger structures. If the community is concerned, a group needs to meet with the mayor.

**FAME@MLK:** The Youth and Law Forum was a huge success with large attendance. Seattle Tilth started a children's garden at the center.

**Spaghetti Dinner:** We hope to reinstitute our annual spaghetti dinner on the first Friday night in November. Experienced volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, June 20th Council Meeting —

President Lindy Wishard called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

**FAME@MLK**: Lizzie Evans was introduced as the Treasurer for the Financial Services Coalition of Puget Sound Charitable Foundation, now housed at the community center. They are offering free services and training in financial literacy for our community. Training for instructors will begin soon. Instructors will be compensated with a stipend for some expenses. Tax information and assistance will also be offered for seniors, families with incomes below \$50,000, students, and Native Americans. Contact FAME@MLK for more information. Summer programs were discussed and are listed on page 3.

**Seattle Fire Department:** SFD has requested use of the community center playground area to stage a temporary fire station while their building on 32<sup>nd</sup> is being renovated. They will move on site in August.

**Madison Valley Street Festival:** The Bastille Bash will be July 14<sup>th</sup> from 3-8 p.m. and is the first year for what is hoped to be an annual event combining neighbors and merchants. The committee is looking for nurses and/or MDs to staff the first aid tent.

**Madison Valley Merchant Association.** New officers were elected. The new website will be launched soon. The website is a joint venture for the merchants and community. Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m. **No GMVCC meetings are held in July and August.** 

#### The Next Meeting is Wed, September 19th!

#### **Editor's Note**

By N. Hawkins



Welcome to the summer season! We have a great issue for you this month, plum full of exciting (free!) events for your family to enjoy — classes, camps, concerts, festivals, news updates, local history, and stories we hope will inspire an active, fun summer right here in our

local community. I hope you find something on these pages to draw you out into the great outdoors, to meet your neighbors and make friends, and get involved in the rich cultural scene of the Madison Valley area. In fact, we had so much news to report, I had to expand this issue to ten pages!

I plan on attending as many of these events as possible and hope to see you there. I will also be hosting an information table and SPONSORSHIP DRIVE at the July 14th Bastille Bash, in the hopes of meeting our important fundraising goals for 2012. This year, *The Valley View* hopes to secure 150 Sponsors and 300 Subscriptions. I need your help, so please attend and pay me a visit. I am staying on as Editor until the end of the year, and am looking for creative ways to increase our funding so the future of the newsletter is secure. Until then, have a wonderful summer and thanks for reading!

#### **MLK Community Center**

The F.A.M.E. MLK Community Center has several family programs lined up this summer for parents who are looking to fill their family's idle hours with something beyond television re-runs and video games.



**JUMP TO IT!** is an exciting, action-packed, twoweek **Summer Arts Program** for youth now being offered for K-8 graders. Program activities include dancing, drawing and musical theater. Two sessions are being offered, each held Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm. The dates are July 16-19, and July 23-26. For additional information, or to register your child, please call 206-329-1500.

For dads looking to increase their summer fitness, F.A.M.E. is offering a men's exercise class called **Flat Bellies and Strong Backs**. The summer session has already begun and class is held on Saturdays at 12:30pm. Stop by to check it out, it's free of charge. Families are also welcome to come visit the new **Children's Garden** managed by Seattle Tilth. All the food grown in the community center's gardens will be donated to the homeless.

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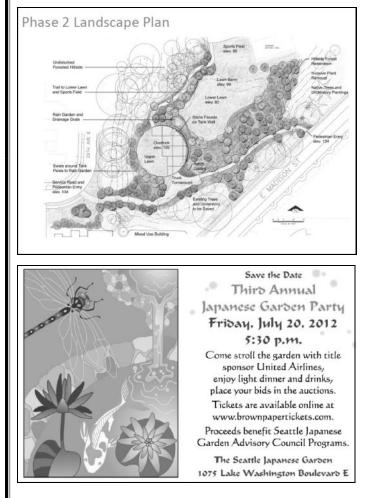
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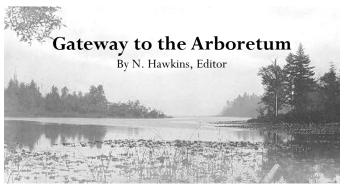
#### THE VALLEY VIEW







**Play Area Cont'd from p.1...** The official application is due September 17. What about the issue of annual park maintenance costs, which derailed us last time? According to one Parks Department employee, the last time the Opportunity Fund occurred some projects were approved despite having annual maintenance costs. So we don't know if we'll get approval or not. But we're crossing our fingers and moving forward. Wish us luck! If you're interested in lending support, contact <u>play@washingtonparkplayground.com</u>. Let's hope persistence pays off... with a new playground!



The Washington Park Arboretum is one of Seattle's true historic treasures, a 230 acre park in the heart of the city and designed by the venerable Landscape Architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. As a living plant museum, it nurtures a diverse collection of trees and woody shrubs from around the world and is managed cooperatively by Seattle Parks & Recreation and the University of Washington (the city owns the land and the university owns the living plant collections). The Arboretum Foundation (which largely funded the park's New Master Plan adopted in 2001) is the non-profit fundraising organization which supports it.

Nestled amongst the valley slopes extending south of Washington Park, the Madison Valley neighborhood is quite literally the gateway to the Arboretum. Yet for the past century, residential access to the park was effectively blocked by the giant earthen dam constructed by the City in 1915, which filled in the Madison St Trestle with sanitary landfill. The steep, wooded hillsides of the park's western ridge also severely limited pedestrian traffic into the Arboretum, the Foster Island wetlands, and the open waters of Union Bay, by providing no safe trails down into the parklands.

But exciting changes are in store for our community in 2012. SPU will complete the final stages of its \$30 million storm water infrastructure project this fall (see Landscape Plan at left) which entails grading and landscaping the southernmost slopes and new stone Overlook of Washington Park. This will open several new pedestrian paths and trails into the Arboretum. And while the earthen dam will remain in place along Madison St, and Arboretum Creek will remain a distant memory, long ago culverted into underground pipes, the restoration of our pedestrian access to the park is an historic event which helps reestablish our identity as a gateway community.

The photo on the cover of this issue gives an illusive glimpse of what this valley looked like before the natural contours of the Arboretum Creek ravine were filled in and the watershed drainage was diverted into the sewers. The title of the photo is simply "Brick Culls at 30th Ave, North of Madison St". In the early 1900s, culls of bricks were made and staged in large piles at various points around our neighborhood, for use in street paving. By the early 1900's, the playfields located in the broad meadow just north of the trestle.. *cont'd p.5* 

*Cont'd...* were already well established by local residents. By 1915, the popularity of the ball field prompted the City to fill in and expand the level playing fields in the lower valley with land-fill provided by the garbage department, adding spectator bleachers and filling in the Madison St. trestle at the same time.

Before Madison Valley was settled by pioneers, it was a rugged, densely wooded forest valley that teamed with wildlife, a salmon bearing stream, and was inhabited by Duwamish Indians. Digging in my own garden has revealed a stone arrowhead and other artifacts which attest to this. Arboretum Creek (as it came to be called) was fed by a series of streams from ravines along the valley, and flowed north through the broad low-



Horse races at the Azalea Way Speedway, 1904

lands into what is now Union Bay, just west of Foster Island. A Duwamish village of the Southern Lushootseed was located just east of the mouth of Arboretum Creek, and Foster Island was reportedly an Indian burial ground site.

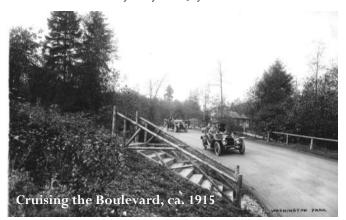
During the period of early Euro-American settlement, the land was purchased by the Puget Mill Company, which logged 320 acres of shoreline in1891, with the hopes of developing a residential community (now Broadmoor). Many mill workers in fact lived in humble Madison Valley cottages during this time. In 1900, Puget Mill Co. exchanged the first tract of land (68 acres) with the City for use as Washington Park, in exchange for key infrastructural water main extensions in Broadmoor. Several more land purchases were made between 1901-1904, which comprised the heart of Washington Park.

At this time, the only other city parks were Denny Park, Dearborn Park and Volunteer Park (Woodland Park was also acquired in 1900). In 1903, Olmsted, Sr. was hired to design the city's future park system, of which the Arboretum played a crucial part in his twenty-mile system of parkways and boulevards. The first stretch of Lake Washington Blvd (as the main entrance to the Arboretum) was completed in 1905. In 1906-07, private funds were used to further develop a widely popular "Speedway Track" used for harness horse racing (above photo). The 3/4 mile track was located on the current site of Azalea Way, its southern terminus just south of the Japanese Garden where park headquarters and small stable were located. Bridle trails and horseback riding continued to... *Cont'd Upper Rt.*  be a very popular past-time in Washington Park throughout the 1930's, well after the arrival of the automobile in Seattle, ca. 1910, ended the popularity of horse racing. Bicycles were also a key form of transportation and recreation at the turn of the century in Seattle, and Washington Park had many well used bicycle trails and wagon paths throughout its woodlands.

In 1924, following the success of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909, for which Olmsted designed the grounds, the University of Washington and the City made a formal agreement to set aside Washington Park for creation of an Arboretum and Botanical Garden. However, lack of funds and the Great Depression delayed realization of this goal until 1935, when the Board of Park Commissioners and the UW Board of Regents formed an Advisory Council, which promptly created the Arboretum Foundation.

The Olmsted Brothers' Landscape Architecture firm (the sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.) were then commissioned with a \$3,000 donation from the Seattle Garden Club, to begin the long process of implementing an Olmstedian design and create the Washington Park Arboretum that we know today. The general design plans were finished in 1936, and included both detailed plant collections and key design elements like Azalea Way, the Lagoons, the Upper Road, the Rose Garden, Alpine Garden and administrative buildings.

This summer, I encourage you to take an afternoon to go explore the unique beauty of the Washington Park Arboretum, whose history of development is closely linked to that of our community. If you enjoyed this article and would



like to read more about the crown jewel of Seattle's park system, see **The Washington Park Historic Review** (by BOLA Architecture & Karen Kiest, LA, 2003) posted online at: http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/gardens/wpa.shtml. You can also visit **www.arboretumfoundation.org** for events, programs and plant collections at Washington Park.

**Photos:** Don Sherwood Parks History Collection. **p.4** Foster Island, Andrews Bay, 1904. **p.5** Washington Park, Azalea Way Speedway, 1908. **Above:** Lake Washington Blvd, Washington Park, ca. 1915. © Seattle Municipal Archives Photo Collection

#### THE VALLEY VIEW

#### Local Arts & Culture

#### **Epiphany Summer Concert Series**

Free concerts held the following Fridays, from 6-8pm! July 13 – Sambatuque July 20 – Anzanga Marimba Ensemble

July 27 – Genesee Ramblers: Old Time Barn Dance

Food trucks will be onsite to provide dinner (cash only). Concerts will be held at the Epiphany Church Courtyard, Madrona What to bring: kids, friends and family, lawn chairs, drinks, picnics, maybe a blanket. All are welcome! 206-324-2573

#### **Classical Concert at Volunteer Park**

The Seattle Chamber Music Society Summer Festival performs live with a free concert at Volunteer Park on **Wed**, July 25 at 7 p.m. Info at: www.seattlechambermusic.org

Madison Park Art Walk — The 2012 Art

Walk will be held on Friday, September 7th, in Madison Park. Join us for a great evening celebrating the work of over two dozen local artists at participating venues on the shores of Lake Washington. The art is on exhibit from September 7th - 30th. See artist roster & sponsors at www.madisonparkseattle.com/ artwalk/. The Madison Park Art Show will kick-off with an Opening Night Reception and Art Walk from 6–9pm on Friday, September 7th at Starbucks, located at 4000 East Madison, Seattle, WA 98112. Take a leisurely walk through Madison Park with your friends and neighbors to enjoy awesome talent from artists that live right here.





The 2012 Seattle Outdoor Theater Festival (SOTF) is on its way! Now in its 12th year, SOTF showcases multiple performances over two days in July. This year it will be hosting the event just up the hill, on the lawn at the Volunteer Park Amphitheater. Seven companies are scheduled to perform. Bring a picnic, a blanket, and some friends! *Dante's Inferno Dogs* will also be on hand, serving up tasty hot dogs to hungry theater goers all day. SOTF will be held Saturday, July 14th and Sunday, July 15th. Volunteer Park is located on the north end of Capitol Hill, at 1247 15th Ave E.

Also presenting at Volunteer Park is the ever-popular, summer theater series by **GreenStage**, **Shakespeare in the Park.** Shows are FREE to the public and presented at parks all around Seattle. The GreenStage series runs from **Friday**, **July 13th to Sat, Aug 18th.** For a complete schedule at all the various Seattle parks, see www.greenstage.org/2012/ performance-calendar. Below are the Volunteer Park dates...

#### **Volunteer Park Performances:**

Fri, July 13 – Henry VIII 7pm
Sat, July 14 – Shrew 7pm \*SOTF
Sun, July 15 – Henry VIII 7pm \*SOTF
Thurs, Aug 16 – Henry VIII 7pm
Fri, Aug 17 – Shrew 7pm
Sat, Aug 18 – Double Feature Day: Shrew 3pm & Henry VIII 7pm



July — August 2012 Issue No. 183

#### Page 7

#### **Conservatory Celebrates 100 Years**

The Conservatory at Volunteer Park is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2012. Seattle's *Glass Palace* was constructed in 1912, built by the Parks Department from a kit that was purchased from a catalogue. A century later, it's mission remains to collect and conserve a diverse plant collection and provide a setting for environmental and horticultural education.

The West Wing of the Conservatory has been fully renovated, but the East Wing (housing the Seasonal and Cactus Houses) remains in need of critical structural repairs. Restoration is also sorely needed in the East Greenhouse, which the Restoration Action Committee hopes to renew and make available for propagation and community educational events. The project is shovel ready and permits are in hand, however the funds are not. The committee needs our help to realize the final stage of preservation for this historic landmark. Special events are planned this summer to mark the occasion and raise the funds.



Victorian Day will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Conservatory on Sunday, August 12th from 1-6 p.m. Activities include a Croquet Tournament, Live Music, Carriage Rides, Kids Games, Tree Tours, Raffle, a Vintage Fire Truck Display, and Food Trucks on hand to feed the crowds. Period Costumes are encouraged and there will be a prize awarded for the best

costume! Families are encouraged to bring their own fare for picnics on the lawn. There will be birthday cake, punch, and a champagne toast served at 5pm to honor the occasion. If you'd like to play in the tournament, pre-registration is required (\$60 for non-members, box lunch included). All proceeds will go to support the Volunteer Park Conservatory. Details at: www.volunteerparkconservatory.org/victorianday.



## Beautifications.

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Summer Camps for Kids are another way to join the fun and support the Conservatory restoration. Around the World in Four Days are weekly camps that provide exciting adventures at the Conservatory in Volunteer Park, and a chance to learn about trees and plants found around the world without leaving Seattle. Students will venture behind the scenes in the greenhouses, use microscopes to examine plant structures, and explore with art tools. Students will make a Travel Journal of their adventures as they examine plants from different bio-regions of the world. Students will also become members of the Friends of the Conservatory for one year. Activities include treasure hunts; sampling edible flowers, fruits and vegetables; making plant prints and terrariums; and much more! Time: 10a.m.-2:00 p.m. Ages: Students 9-11 (12 students maximum per session) **Tuition:** is \$100.00 (scholarships are available, please ask) Three Sessions: July 10-13, July 24-27, Aug. 14-17

There are also **Art Classes for Adults** at the Conservatory this summer and fall: **Intro to Ikebana** (with Fanny Yau) and **Watercolor Florals** (with Jan Morris). Lastly, don't forget about the *Friends of the Conservatory* **Fall Plant Sale**, held **Wed**, **Sept 15th**, **from 10am-3pm**. For more information on any of these events, or to get involved and make a donation, see: www.volunteerparkconservatory.org

#### Volunteer Park Wading Pool is one of

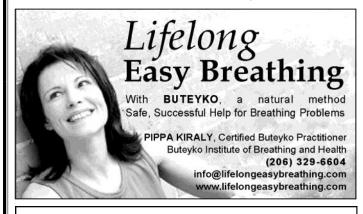
the "Big Three" wading pools in Seattle and very popular. The large circular pool is located just downhill from the Conservatory, at the northeast corner of the park. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. from June 23-Sept 3. Other free amenities at the park: Drinking Fountains, Public Restrooms, Play Area, 4 Tennis Courts, Historic Water Tower with History Exhibit at upper level, views of the Space Needle, SAAM, 45 acres of lush parklands & paths.

#### PAGE 8

*Greenbelts cont'd...* who have dedicated time, energy and resources into the Green Seattle Partnership's 20 year effort to restore Seattle's forested parks. This event is where your ideas come together to shape the future of the partnership! Since last year, we have made progress on things important to the GSP effort: new partners; forest stewards in new parks; insights from forest monitoring; advocating long-term, sustainable funding; and pushing forward on long-term GSP goals.

So, please join us again for this  $2^{nd}$  annual event to take in reports from the field on forest restoration practices; review current and future program funding; and provide a forum to reconnect with all shareholders (new and long-standing) involved in the restoration of Seattle's forests. Mathematical Editor's Note: Wallis Bolz is a GSP Forest Steward at Alder Creek.

Photo, Right: Wild Game Feeding Grounds, Lake Washington, 1930. © Seattle Municipal Archives Photograph Collection



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**Harrison Ridge Project** — By Cathy Nunneley Evelyn Hall and I competed the second planting of the cleared area at the greenbelt this past spring. Last year we installed the new trees and this year the smaller shrubs were planted. Almost all the plants seem to be thriving. We are members of that small consortium of gardeners that are actually happy with our rainy Seattle weather. Neighbors across the street have agreed to water some of the vulnerable ferns during our dry summer. The Parks Department is scheduled to help us clear the upper area of blackberries and other invasive species sometime in the early summer. Other than that, Evelyn and I will be back in the fall to continue restoration work at the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt.

This work is imperative if we are to continue to enjoy this green space. It is a common misconception that urban woods can be left alone to become wild. In fact, without maintenance, the trees and other desirable plants will become overwhelmed by blackberry, ivy, holly, clematis and other invasive species. I don't believe the community really wants a mess of weeds and a home for rats in such an important urban greenbelt.

Want to help? You don't need to make a big commitment. Just stop by and pull up the horsetails. I did the entire site alone in about 40 minutes. Have more time? Just contact me at <u>cjnunnneley@yahoo.com</u>. We'd be thrilled to have more gardeners join the effort to free our trees.

**Alder Creek Natural Area** — By Wallis Bolz Hello friends and neighbors of Alder Creek! Did you know that Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) sponsors the restoration effort at the Alder Creek Natural Area? As a neighbor, friend, advocate, or participant in the effort, you are invited to attend the second annual GSP shareholder's meeting on August 22nd. The invitation is below. I hope to see my neighbors there!

You're Invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Seattle Partnership Shareholder's Meeting Wednesday, August 22, 4:30 - 8:30 pm REI Flagship Store, 222 Yale Ave. North

Forest stewards, volunteers, project partners, donors, City staff, neighbors... We are all **Shareholders**...*cont'd upper left* 

#### THE VALLEY VIEW

#### PAGE 9

#### Summer Garden Workshops

By Kyra Butzel, City People's Garden Store

#### <u>GROWING FALL AND WINTER EDIBLES</u> SATURDAY, JULY 14, 10 AM - 11 AM

You don't have to put the vegetable garden to bed at the end of tomato season. With some planning and planting now and through September, you can eat fresh salad crops, root vegetables and brassicas like broccoli and kale throughout the fall and winter. **Bill Thorness**, author of *Edible Heirlooms*, will share timing and techniques for year-round gardening.

#### DROUGHT TOLERANT/LOW MAINTENANCE GARDENS SATURDAY, JULY 21, 11 AM - NOON

**Richard Greenberg** of **Earth Wizardry Gardens** goes over practices for low water and easy-to-maintain gardens. Learn about how plant choice, soil prep, and site specifications can all work to keep you from fretting during a dry spell and allow you to relax and enjoy the garden when you don't want to toil in it!

#### FRUIT CANNING BASICS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 10 AM - 11 AM

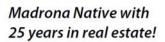
From fruit selection and preparation to the basics of water bath canning, learn how to can fruit and make jams, jellies, and marmalades. Avid canner **Nancy Gohring** will talk about pectin versus non-pectin recipes, no sugar or low sugar recipes, hot packing versus raw packing, syrup choices, and equipment. Nancy's been canning for more than five years and earned a Master Food Preserver certificate from Seattle Tilth.

#### COLOR: BEYOND THE FLOWER TO THE PLANT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 11 AM – NOON Choose color for your garden other than through a plant's flowers. Flowers are wonderful, but often short lived. Richard Greenberg of Earth Wizardry Gardens will show you many special plants that have year-round interest and color in their leaves, berries, stems, and bark.

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