

Water Ways



Get ready to “Kiss Those Rhodies Goodbye”

Master Gardener Bonnie Orr and Ward Larson, owner of Ward’s Green Thumb grounds-keeping service, will lead three evening workshops on water-conserving landscaping practices in May.



Bonnie Orr

Workshops will include:

“Kiss Those Rhodies Goodbye” – Tuesday, May 6. Designed for former residents of Western Washington who are establishing new homes and landscapes in Chelan County, but good for anyone who wants an introduction to Xeriscape. Orr will focus on long-time residents’ questions as well as former “wet siders” who want to learn how to landscape using drought-tolerant and native plants.

“Much Ado About Mulch” – Wednesday, May 14. Learn to conserve water by preventing evaporation using decorative gravel, bark and other means. Keep weeds down without using chemicals.

“It’s About Timers” – Thursday, May 22. Larson will explain how to save money on your water bill by designing the right irrigation system for your landscape. He’ll also unravel the mysteries of irrigation timers.

Drought-tolerant plants from Sleepy Hollow Nursery will be on display at the workshops May 6 and 14. Sample Xeriscape landscaping designs also will be available. Irrigation retailers, including ABC Supply and S and W Irrigation Supply, will have experts at the May 22 workshop to demonstrate designs and products.

All workshops are free and start at 7 p.m. in the Chelan County PUD Auditorium, 327 N. Wenatchee Ave.

Bonnie Orr is known as the “Dirt Diva” for her lively discussions on local radio about working the soil, mulching, composting and planting. She is active in annual Arbor Day events, a key organizer of Master Gardener activities, and a community education instructor at Wenatchee Valley College.



Master Gardeners transplant greenhouse seedlings to larger pots for their upcoming sale Saturday, April 26.

Ward Larson also is involved in the Master Gardener program. He has designed and installed irrigation systems and as the owner of Ward’s Green Thumb, provides grounds maintenance services.

For more information, contact the PUD’s Conservation and Customer Services department, 661-8008 or e-mail conservation@chelanpud.org.

Drought-tolerant plants featured at sale

Some 1,600 plants grown from seed by Master Gardeners will be available at the WSU Chelan County Master Gardener Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at the Gesa Credit Union parking lot, 1005 N. Wenatchee Ave.

The plants are perennials selected to grow in this area. They are drought-tolerant – once established, they take very little water.

Master Gardeners will be available to advise customers about growing the plants being sold. They can also help diagnose plant problems and give advice on growing other plants.

The plant sale is a fundraiser for the Master Gardeners. The group’s long-term goal is to establish a demonstration garden and to purchase a greenhouse.

Spring 2008

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How to reach us

Conservation and Customer Services:..... 661-8008

Water Department: 661-4254

Web site: www.chelanpud.org/water-conservation

Here is a list of some of the plants for sale. Photos of many of the plants are available on the Xeriscape section of the PUD Web site: www.chelanpud.org.

- Hummingbird flower – Zauschneria garrettii (red and yellow)
- Narrowleaf foxglove – Digitalis obscura (brown and yellow)
- Switch grass – Panicum virgatum "Heavy Metal"
- Stokes aster – Stokesia laevis "Mary Gregory"
- Sundancer Daisy – Hymenoxys ivesiana (yellow)
- Scarlet Hedge Nettle – Stachys coccinea
- Salvia – "Rose Queen"
- Catmint – Nepeta transcaucasica "Blue Infinity"
- Gaillardia – "Goblin" (red and yellow)
- Coreopsis – "Early Sunrise"
- Texas hummingbird mint – Agastachecana (reddish pink)
- Penstemon – barbatus "Elfin Pink"
- Yellow Loosestrife – Lysimachia purpurea
- Prairie smoke – Geum triflorum (maroon)
- Gayfeather – Liatris ligulistylis - "Meadow Blazing Star"
- Blue false indigo – Baptisia australis
- Harebell or Bluebell of Scotland – Campanula rotundifolia
- Verbascum – snow maiden

Plant Sale

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, April 26

Gesa Credit Union,
1005 N. Wenatchee Ave.

Small water systems part of conservation plan

After completing a plan in 2007 for its Wenatchee-area water systems, Chelan County PUD will develop conservation goals for its

small, rural water systems this year. Conservation efforts are the focus of a new state requirement for water suppliers throughout Washington. The regulation, called the Water Use Efficiency Rule, requires the PUD to document existing conservation efforts and develop plans for future programs.

Programs already in place for the Wenatchee area also are available to customers of the Dryden, Olalla Canyon and Chelan Ridge systems. However, some of these programs may be fine-tuned to provide additional conservation opportunities specific to rural needs. The overall goal of the state's rule is for water providers to efficiently provide safe, clean drinking water, and to help customers conserve wherever possible.

Customers will have an opportunity to comment on the PUD's plans.

Xeriscape flower of the month – Gayfeather

This showy, long-blooming summer plant comes in many species, with the purple *Liatris punctata* the most drought-resistant. See Gayfeather this summer in the Riverfront Park Demonstration Garden, or in the flowerbeds in front of the Chelan County PUD headquarters building, 327 N. Wenatchee Ave.

