

Jane Murphy – Class of 1997 – Northwest Chapter - 2,387 Volunteer Hours



Jane answering the helpline phone.

*What is your favorite area of gardening to learn about?

I love garden design seeing the creative and imaginative use of plants in so varied ways. I have had the absolute good fortune to have visited gardens here and abroad ranging from the very formal and symmetrical to the wild and crazy. All having their own charm that draws you in.

*What is your favorite pest to manage?

One of my approaches is to use disease resistant plants such as Phlox "David" and the tomato Magic Mountain. I also like to use mulching under tomato plants and copper based fungicides for fungal diseases.

*What would you consider to be your pride and joy in your home garden?

I really don't have a "pride and joy" but do have some "must haves". As one of my favorites, Rudbeckia "Prairie Sun" is spectacular! The blossoms are huge with green eyes with petals transitioning from gold to lemon yellow. They're rated zone 5 with most coming back in the spring. They start well indoors about 8 week before the last frost date. They could be bought at Von Trapp's but they are closing.

Lisianthus, echo series, is another "must have". They have a somewhat succulent appearing 10" foliage with rose like blossoms. It is an annual and challenging to start from seed indoors with a very long germination time. So I buy them at Pine Tree Gardens in Bristol.

*What is your favorite gardening "go to" book or other resource (educator, column, magazine, etc.) for research and learning on horticulture topics?

By far my favorite garden resource books are from Rodale's! They start with the basic requirements for the healthy growth of each plant variety. When addressing plant problems, pests and diseases, they use such sound IPM principals that can be understood and practiced by a home gardener.

*Do you have a favorite garden you like to visit? Favorite nursery to buy plants?

Claussen's for their variety of perennials.
Sam Mazza's for begonias, geraniums and annuals
Pine Tree Gardens for European geraniums, Proven Winner and Lisianthus



Jane attending annual EMG Helpline Wrap up.



Jane with helpline volunteers in the lab.

***What Master Gardener projects do you/have you worked on?**

I've been on the Helpline since taking the course.

***What has changed about gardening since you first became a Master Gardener? What hasn't changed?**

Some the changes I've seen are the increased number of community gardens for those who do not have the space at home. Also there's much more awareness about using safe pest management practices and products. Organic gardening has also become a dominate practice.

What hasn't changed is the satisfaction, joy and pleasure people derive from gardening.