

## Chaos and Beauty

The Community Garden expansion project continues to progress, thanks to the dedicated effort of Garden members. We have had a great turn-out for the last two work-parties, February 22 and March 2, and, as you can see in the photos, we have been joined by a special "New Member" -- "G.G." or Garden Goddess (the pot woman). We had fun installing her on her 'stump-throne', to watch over our activities.

The February 22 event involved many different chores : continuation of bucking up the firewood from felled trees, installation of glass panes into the greenhouse (Thank you, Michael Buchan, for your assistance!), and Mike Nadeau did a demonstration of how to do a 'bio-char' burn - a method of slow-burning slash/waste under a cover of earth so that the carbon is sequestered, instead of released, and the resulting 'compost-earth' is alive and enriched, instead of sterile, as with a hot burn. We may do another bio-char demonstration burn for anyone who is interested in learning about this technique; we will announce a date for it in the future.

The March 2 work party was also blessed with nice weather, and another busy afternoon began. Major projects for this day were : splitting 10 foot lengths of cedar to use as the posts for the Garden fence, installation of plumbing for the waterline and faucets for the new garden beds, clean-up of the area for a labyrinth demonstration, and construction of 2 more garden boxes (a total of 5 new boxes have now been built).

In addition to all the enthusiastic hard work put in by members of the Community Garden, we gratefully continue to receive generous donations of time, effort, and materials from other Mayne Islanders. Thanks!! go to : Mark Aiken, for donating his skill in felling some hazardous trees near the garden area ; to Hardscrabble Farm, for donating some of the PVC plumbing for the water system ; to Ruth Palmer-Haenisch, for donating a 500 gallon water tank ; to Richard Brown, for donation of mill-end boards for the garden boxes.

Spring - and construction projects! - demand that one use imagination and vision in large quantities, to see past the chaos and dis-order, and picture the beauty of what the future will bring. As seedlings sprout in the greenhouse, early shoots of lettuces, garlic, and rhubarb appear in the garden plots, and as the expansion project begins to really 'take shape' -- I can foresee a gardener's Eden (or is it a Garden of Eatin' ?!) by summer's end. I'm betting that the 'Before' and 'After' pictures of the Garden and Expansion project will be amazing to see. The good energy and love that all of the members and friends are investing will undoubtedly produce a Garden space that will be beautiful, bountiful, and a real asset to the Mayne Island community.

"The Garden is growing, and its roots are deep"