



MASTER GARDENER connection

A JOINT MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE MASTER GARDENERS OF KING COUNTY
AND THE MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

JULY 2023



Saying Goodbye to Finn Hill Demonstration Garden

*...by Sharon O'Grady, Extension Master
Gardener and Finn Hill Demo Garden Leader*

I am deeply saddened to announce that the Finn Hill Demonstration Garden (FHDG), established in 2021, will be closing at the end of the 2023 growing season. The Finn Hill site was chosen as the replacement for the Bothell Children's Garden when the landowner sold that property. Several Extension Master Gardener volunteers collaborated to establish site selection criteria. Once the Finn Hill location was chosen, Master Gardener volunteers labored to remove boxwood and ivy so that a well-built shed could be delivered in March 2021.

[Read more](#)

Photo: FHDG work parties – perennial border preparation, September 2021

Photo credit: MG Sharon O'Grady

SNAP-Ed and Master Gardeners Work Together to Combat Food Insecurity

*...by Anna Kitchin, SNAP-Ed Manager,
WSU King County Extension*

WSU King County SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) works with individuals and communities experiencing food insecurity to build



skills, opportunities, and access to healthier living. SNAP-Ed provides nutrition education in schools, food banks, affordable housing sites, and farmers markets and supports school and community gardens in South King County.

[Read more](#)

Photo: A student harvests vegetables from plants purchased at MGFKC Spring Plant Sale.

Photo credit: Candida Goza



Looking Forward to Seeing You

...by Sarah Moore, WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program Coordinator

I've been looking forward to this part of my job for a long time. Now that the summer season is in full swing and clinics and demonstration gardens are active, I'm getting out to see the wide reach of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program throughout King County. This Program is so impressive! From Ask-a-Master-Gardener clinics and pop-up clinics to demonstration gardens, children's activities, classes and more, King County's home gardeners have many opportunities to gain new skills and information from reliable, university-trained volunteers.

Thank you to the demonstration gardens and clinics that have already shown your hospitality and educational, public engagement and gardening talents. I am excited to visit more. If you have a special day in mind, please let me know and I will make every effort to be there and celebrate your successes with you!

Foodies in the Garden

This is the latest in an occasional series of articles about what we do with the plants that we grow for food.

The Divergent Tuber

...by Extension Master Gardener Bruce Caredio



Potatoes, *Solanum tuberosum*, are a well-known major food crop of the world. It wasn't always so. Potatoes are a member of the Nightshade family which also includes pepper, eggplant, tobacco and petunia. Native to the Andes Mountains of southern Peru, ancient Incans cultivated the tuber since about 5000 BCE. When Spanish conquistadores invaded South America in the 16th century, the potato was already a cultivated crop. The Spaniards recognized the plant as a valuable agricultural and trade good. By way of the Spanish, all but a few of the tuber varieties made their way to Europe.

Europeans were slow to warm up to the new arrival, but potatoes were gradually accepted and cultivated for their nutritious starchy tuber, and blooms.

Unlike most potatoes, what was to become known as the Makah Ozette, made its migration directly to North America from its native ground in South America. The name Makah derives from the Indian tribe on Washington's Olympic peninsula and Ozette for the village which is eight miles away from present day Neah Bay.

[Read more](#)

Photo: Makah Ozette potato plant

Photo credit: MG Bruce Caredio



Care for Your Trees During the Dry Season

...by Extension Master Gardener Marty Byrne

How do we take care of our trees during this time of unpredictable, changeable weather?

Trees need water, just like your flower and vegetable gardens and lawn. Proper watering and mulching will help your trees survive upcoming hot and dry spells.

Water

Water needs differ for newly planted trees and established trees. Newly planted trees need routine more frequent watering for the first three years. More established trees have put down deep roots and require less water. For all trees: Water deeply and infrequently rather than delivering more frequent shallow watering. Deep watering encourages deep root growth; shallow watering encourages roots closer to the surface.

[Read more](#)

Photo: Tree bags allow water to seep slowly to the roots.

WSU Extension Master Gardener Endowed Chair Drive

"The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is raising money to establish the first ever faculty chair fully dedicated to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. This position will ensure that Master Gardener volunteers will receive cutting-edge horticulture and environmental stewardship education in perpetuity.

In support of this fundraising effort, Skagit County WSU Extension Master Gardener Deborah Smeltzer and her husband, Davit T. Kingsbury, PhD, have issued a challenge: They will match,

Quick Links



[MGFKC](#)



[King County MG](#)

dollar for dollar, any donation made to the endowment fund up to \$15,000 by September 25, 2023. Your donation in whatever amount will be *doubled*."

You'll find more information [here](#) or you can donate directly at the link below. Thank you!

<https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/how-to-donate/>



[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

Record Impacts

[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Volunteer hours must be entered monthly.

Staying Smart

[BDG Workshops](#)

[Education Events for the Public and Master Gardeners](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)



Extend your Knowledge:

Washington's Water Supply Outlook

As gardeners, we are all experiencing the impacts of a warm, dry May and June. This article explores the water resources in Washington state. It gives a snapshot of our normal, annual precipitation and soil moisture and what to expect this year by comparison.

[Washington's water supply outlook - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)



[Ways to donate to MGFKC](#)



[MG Program Priorities](#)



Butterflies in Your Garden

...by Extension Master Gardener Bruce Bennett

As a volunteer at the Woodland Park Zoo, I received word about the 2023 June reopening

of Molbak's Butterfly Garden. "But why," you may well ask, "would a zoo dedicate precious urban space to an exhibit which is open for only four months of the year?" It's because the twenty or so varieties of butterflies who call western Washington home are choosy insects. Any gardener can have aphids, but red admirals, painted ladies and tiger swallowtails (and all their kin) insist upon certain environmental niceties, such as sunshine, shelter from wind and protection from the winter wet. The chances of area readers/gardeners having such spaces in their yards are pretty good and would allow these ephemeral spots of color to float through neighborhood yards and display like so many flowers-on-the-breeze. The Zoo also provides the space because butterflies, as well as other pollinators, are becoming even more endangered. For the Zoo, the survival and preservation of endangered species is what it's all about.

[Read more](#)



Find out about the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King County, how to become a Master Gardener, a list of speakers and the Puget Sound Tip Sheets.

<https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/>

For **MG-only** information, log into the "KCMGs, Only" area.



Discover the many ways contributions help the King County Master Gardener program operate public gardens, diagnostic plant clinics for the public and offer low-cost classes and workshops to the public.

<https://www.mgfkf.org/>

For **MG-only** documents, Foundation policies and clinic resources, log into the Foundation "Members Area". See the MGFKC May 23 email for the password.

PlantAmnesty ▲▲▲

PlantAmnesty is Hiring

PlantAmnesty is looking for a new Office Manager! If you know someone looking for a part-time job (20 – 25 hours/week) with a passion for organization and a love of plants, please send them this job posting:

Of Interest to You

Tip Sheets for KC

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)

WHERE am I?

Find King County
Master Gardener clinic
and garden locations
using the [MGFKC map](#)

**Sign up to receive the
Master Gardener
Connection**

Join us!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



2023 WSU MASTER GARDENER
ADVANCED
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE

Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State

Sept. 27-30, 2023
Marriott Tacoma Downtown
Tacoma, WA

- Choose from 35 classes taught by top-notch instructors
- Earn CE credits
- Be inspired by our keynote speaker
- Network with like-minded garden enthusiasts
- Celebrate 50 years of the Extension Master Gardener Program





1973 50 2023

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

www.mastergardener.wsu.edu

KEYNOTE



Michael D. Blackstock
Writer and visual artist

<https://mglearns.mastergardenerfoundation.org/>



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



MASTER GARDENER
FOUNDATION
OF WASHINGTON STATE

Continuing Education Opportunities

What Counts as CE?

Classes that will improve a volunteer's knowledge and skill base for performing work as a horticultural advisor and serving as a resource on issues of sustainable gardening for home gardeners.



Staying Smart!

Education Opportunities

Master Gardeners can earn Continuing Education credit from a wide selection of online classes, webinars, and online workshops. Check out the offerings on the MGF Education page: <https://mgfkc.org/education/>

Growing Groceries Classes

Growing Groceries classes are finished for the season. Please visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration for future classes.

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops

Workshops are online Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Registration is required. For information and details, please visit the [Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops](#) page.

July 22: Fire-Resistant Landscapes, presented by Extension Master Gardener Joe Jennings. *(This workshop is offered free of charge. Registration is required.)*

July 29: Creating Your First Rock Garden, presented by Ross Bayton, PhD, Garden Director, Heronswood Garden.

WSU Master Gardener Online Workshops

Tuesdays in July at 12:00 p.m. WSU Master Gardeners present **free** weekly online programs. *No need to register, just pop in.*

Connection information (To attend you must have a Zoom account, sign up for one at zoom.us), then join from

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android:

<https://wsu.zoom.us/j/7756056320?pwd=RzVxbTI0dXpyUjJjSDdsWnJuTXdydz09>

Meeting ID: 775 605 6320

Password: 12345

Phone Call: +1 253 215 8782, 775 605 6320#

For help, call Gary Fredricks at garyf@wsu.edu or 360-577-3014 Ext. 3.

July 11: Solving Common Summer Garden Problems, presented by Extension Master Gardener Alice Slusher.

July 18: Summer Watering: How Much Water for Your Garden?, presented by Extension Master Gardener Art Fuller.

July 25: Keeping Deer and Elk out of Your Garden, presented by OSU Extension Agent Chip Bubl.

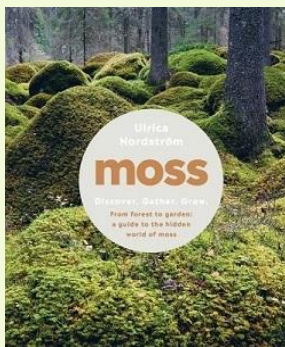
Bellevue Botanical Garden

BBGS members receive a 30% discount on most webinars, lectures and classes. More information at <https://bellevuebotanical.org/learn/?all-events>.

July 26: A Celebration of Stress: New Directions in Planting Design a Zoom presentation by Michael McCoy, garden designer and author.

WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference

September 27 – 30, 2023 at the Marriott Tacoma Downtown in Tacoma, Washington. Registration opened May 1st. Find more information at <https://mglearns.mastergardenerfoundation.org/>.



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection

Moss: From Forest to Garden

Moss is one of the most ubiquitous plants in the Pacific Northwest. *Moss: From Forest to Garden* will teach you how to identify, gather and cultivate mosses. Filled with color photographs and illustrations, *Moss* has a large section devoted to the moss gardens of Japan, Sweden and Oregon. The Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island is also featured in the book.

Moss: From Forest to Garden by Ulrica Nordström was published in September 2019 by Countryman Press. Nick Williams, Special Collections Librarian, reviewed the book.

[Read more](#)



Events and Coming Attractions

MGFKC Board Meeting on Thursday, July 13, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. online Zoom meeting. Information and details at

<https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/board/>.

Zoom Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88172076722>
Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

One tap mobile - +12532158782,,88172076722#

Dial in - +1 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

Open House / Open Garden Event to celebrate 50 years of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program and partnership with WSU-NWREC and demonstration gardens. Thursday, July 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at WSU-NWREC, 16550 State Route 536, Mount Vernon,

Contributing to The Connection

Do you have an event or CE opportunity to share? An article of interest to Master Gardeners? Deadline for announcements or article submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication (ex: May 15 for the June edition). For more information or to submit items for consideration, please contact us at communicate@mgfkc.org. All published photos have the photographer's permission or are sourced from free-to-use sites.

WAIT! Don't unsubscribe from all mailings if you are an active Master Gardener!

If you wish to unsubscribe, be selective and identify the email lists you wish to receive. **All active Master Gardeners in King County are expected to subscribe to the current year's "KC Master Gardeners" Email List** to continue receiving information about Program activities, updates and recertification notices. Other email lists are optional.



The Master Gardener Connection is a joint publication from the King County Master Gardener Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and the WSU Extension Master Gardener program in King County to provide research-based education about urban horticulture to the residents of King County.



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