



# MASTER GARDENER connection

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

FEBRUARY 2023

## Northwest Flower & Garden Festival CE Opportunities Abound

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



In addition to garden inspiration, a chance to network, the irresistible urge to buy plants, and the boost of spring in dreary February, the 2023 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival will offer a multitude of Continuing Education (CE) opportunities. Please look through [this list of seminars](#) approved for Master Gardener Continuing Education and plan to take in a few of the 60 minute presentations to learn, enjoy, and earn CE credit too! Please note that not every seminar will qualify for CE, so please check the list before entering the time in GivePulse.



## A Note from the Program Coordinator

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

February in the Master Gardener Program, much like in my own garden, is a month of planning, learning and preparation for the busy spring and summer ahead.

A class of 110 incoming interns began their training on January 22. I want to give a shoutout to the team who recruited, selected and brought on board the new trainees. They also put together an amazing eight-week series of in-person and Zoom lectures and mentored discussions for the 2023 class. Many of the training sessions from this series will be recorded and made available as Continuing Education (CE) after the training ends in March. Stay tuned for more information on talks about climate change, water conservation and more.

As CE opportunities come up and everyone prepares for the 2023 season of clinics and demonstration gardens, I want to remind everyone of the hour requirements and the main categories to select in GivePulse. Please enter your hours as soon as possible after completing them, *at minimum*, once per month. For your 2023 hours, you will need to record a minimum of:

- 25 Service Hours and 10 Continuing Education hours (Certified Master Gardeners, AKA Veterans)
- 5 Service Hours and 5 Continuing Education hours (Emeritus Master Gardeners)

[Read more](#)



### *Seeking Interesting Classes for CE Hours?*

In every issue of the *Master Gardener Connection*, you can find the list of Continuing Education opportunities you see below. We've moved it to the top of the e-newsletter this month just in case you've missed it in the past. This list is updated monthly with new webinars, classes, lectures and workshops from a variety of approved sources. Many are low cost or free of charge, and fees from Growing Groceries and Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops directly benefit the Master Gardener Foundation of King County. Don't miss it!

## *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://www.mgfk.org/education>

### *Growing Groceries Classes*

Growing Groceries classes are Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration for all classes.

**February 1: Backyard Fruit Trees**, presented by Master Gardener Brandon Bray.

**February 15: Principles of Gardening in the Pacific Northwest for the Intermediate Gardener**, presented by Master Gardener Jim Olson.

**March 1: Soil Quality and Fertility for the Home Gardener** with Dr. Douglas Collins, WSU Instructor in Ecological Soil Management.

### ***Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops***

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

**February 4: Soft Fruits and Berries**, presented by Krista Fay, Board Member Northwest Perennial Alliance.

**February 11: Caring for Fuchsias**, presented by Caroline Zebrowski, Fuchsia Gardener at Bellevue Botanical Garden.

**March 4: Pruning Fruit Trees**, presented by Brandon Bray, Master Gardener.

### ***2023 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival***

**February 15 – 19: More than 90 NWFGF seminars** are eligible for Continuing Education credit for Master Gardeners. The list of eligible seminars is available [here](#). Tickets and information at [gardenshow.com](http://gardenshow.com).

### ***Master Gardener Foundation of Spokane County***

**March 18 – May 31: 13th Annual Cabin Fever Virtual Gardening Symposium.** Class information and tickets are available [here](#). This online event will begin on Saturday, March, 18, with a live presentation by Benjamin Vogt. All presentations will be available to view on your own schedule from March 20 to May 31 and will cover many topics essential to developing sustainable gardens. Registrants to this event will be emailed a link to access the presentations.

### ***Jefferson County Master Gardener Foundation***

25th Anniversary Yard & Garden Virtual Lecture Series, February 11 – March 25, 2023. Find more information and registration [here](#).

**February 11: Getting the Most Out of Your Next Forest Adventure** presented by Jane Billingham, the translator of Peter Wohlleben's *The Hidden Life of Trees*.

**February 25: Veggies Year Round: Growing Edibles Through All Seasons**, presented by writer, editor, and Master Gardener Bill Thorness.

### ***Island County Master Gardener Foundation***

**March 3 – 4: The Whidbey Gardening Workshop** is two days of focused classes, themed sessions, hands-on learning, and a gardening marketplace. This event is both on-site and live-streamed. Information and registration [here](#).

### ***Bellevue Botanical Garden***

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

**February 4: Outdoor STEM Workshop for Educators**, an in-person workshop with educators Kate Sorensen and Linda Mank.

**February 13: Small Garden Love Affair**, a hybrid presentation by Danilo

Maffei, founding principal of Maffei Landscape Design, LLC in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

**February 23: Perennials for Year-Round Color**, a virtual presentation by Master Gardener Cleo Raulerson in partnership with Master Gardeners of King County. *(There is a discounted price of \$10.50 for King County Master Gardener members on this class.)*

**March 2: Hydrangeas: A Gardeners Guide**, a virtual presentation by Kit Haesloop, Former President NW Perennial Alliance.

### *Washington Native Plant Society*

**February 2: Our Backyard Bumbles: an Introduction to Washington's Bumblebees**, an in-person presentation by David Jennings about native bumblebees. For more information and possible changes due to COVID-19, visit <https://www.wnps.org/cps-events/calendar/1801>. Masks are encouraged.

### *More Online Learning Opportunities...*

For a month-by-month listing of more online Continuing Education classes, check out these [public events](#) from Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County. (Note that some events listed on this site are in-person in Cowlitz County.)



### *Cultivate (More) Knowledge*

## **To Mulch or Not to Mulch: That is the Question** *Or When is Too Much of a Good Thing, Not a Good Thing?*

*This article was originally published in Heads*

*UP! March 2018, Volume 4, Issue 1*

It's time to plan and prepare your garden and as knowledgeable Master Gardeners, you know that soil is the key, and the key to good soil is ORGANIC MATTER (hereafter referred to as OM). OM matters because:

- It improves drainage, especially in heavy, compacted soils.
- It helps soils retain moisture and nutrients, especially in sandy soils.
- It slows the release of nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur into the soil.

Micro-organisms in the soil that need nitrogen to grow are what decompose OM, so having too much OM in soils can mean there is a reduced amount of nitrogen available to new and growing plants. In raised beds the soil level declines as the OM decomposes. OM can be added to these beds to maintain the initial soil level. In landscape beds add only an inch a year after the first three years. Give the worms a head start by mixing the OM into the top 6 – 8 inches of the existing soil.

[Read more](#)



## News Shoots: *Short Subjects*

### Education Leadership Team Seeks Volunteers

The Education Leadership Team (ELT) is recruiting King County Master Gardeners interested in planning an education event. If you are interested, please notify Dawn Rubstello at [drubstello@gmail.com](mailto:drubstello@gmail.com).

### Happy New Year from the Help Desk Team!

The Help Desk Team would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year filled with joy and happy gardening!

## Quick Links



[MGFKC](#)



[King County MG](#)

[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](#)



## Garden Activities in the Midst of Winter

*...by Bruce Bennett, Master Gardener*

January is considered to be the middle of winter, and, for many, it feels like it will never end. You look out at your garden and see snow, ice, or simply cold, wet, bare dirt (if you have lots of herbaceous plants outside that particular window). If such is the case, this might just be a great time to look at what aspects of a winter garden you could incorporate into your landscape to brighten it up a bit. How about colorful shrub bark, winter flowers or evergreen foliage? This is an excellent time to reflect on your past gardening successes (and failures) and

note them in a gardening journal. While you may not be actively out in the garden as often as you would care to, due to cold, rain, snow, or all three, you can still learn and practice in your mind as you read books and blogs, watch videos and attend seminars. This is the perfect time to get all your garden-related thoughts and new ideas in order.

[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 our public gardening education events, fundraising activities and recognitions, and how you can help the King County Extension Master Gardeners.

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

For **MG-only** information about Foundation policies and more clinic resources, log into the "Member Area."



[Donate to MGFKC](#)



You can donate .5% of your purchase when you use [AmazonSmile](#).

**Thank you.**



**The website is moving!** The Master Gardener Foundation of King County (MGFKC) is moving its website into a new look and feel in 2023. Part of this process is assessing existing content, creating new content and images, and adopting

## Of Interest to You

**Tip Sheets for KC**

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)

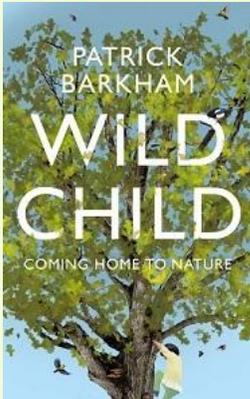
**WHERE am I?**

our content to a new WordPress template. The initial phase should be done by the end of March. We are gathering a small team of 4 to 6 persons for this project. If you are interested and have the skills for this kind of work, please contact Penny Kriese, [webmaster@mgfkc.org](mailto:webmaster@mgfkc.org) for more information. The team will need:

- Text editors to review existing content for reuse
- Writers to edit or create new content for this fundraising site
- Photo editors to find and identify images
- WordPress web editors with some HTML experience to help migrate our content into the new site

The Foundation website will become part of the new site being created for the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State. We will update you as we make progress.

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



### *Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection*

#### *Wild Child: Coming Home to Nature*

Learn how to help children connect with nature. Natural history writer, Patrick Barkham, shares his experiences volunteering at Dandelion, a nursery school conducted entirely out of doors, in *Wild Child*. Part memoir and part call to action, *Wild Child* advocates for the benefits of children being outdoors in nature.

*Wild Child: Coming Home to Nature* was published June 2020 by Granta Books. Laura Blumhagen, Information Specialist at the Miller Library, reviewed the book.

[Read more](#)



### *Events and Coming Attractions*

**MGFKC Board Meeting** on Thursday, February 9, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. online Zoom meeting. Information and details at <http://www.mgfkc.org/events/mgfkc-meetings>.

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

**Northwest Flower & Garden Festival.** February 15 – 19, 2023 at the Seattle Convention Center. Plan your visit at [gardenshow.com](http://gardenshow.com). Follow this [link](#) to see a complete list of CE eligible seminars.

### 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](mailto: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.*



**Like us on Facebook!**