



# MASTER GARDENER connection

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

MAY 2023

## BDG Plant Sale Returns!

*...by Master Gardener Marcia Dillon*

The Bellevue Demonstration Garden Spring Plant Sale is coming back this year! It's been four years since Bellevue Demonstration Garden (BDG) held an in-person plant sale and we're excited to host this event at the garden once again. This year's spring sale will feature warm-season veggie starts as well as ornamentals. Offerings will include basil, peppers, eggplant, summer and winter squashes, cucumbers, tomatillos and, of course, tomatoes. There will be more than 30 varieties of tomatoes, including rare, unusual and hard-to-find types, as well as perennial favorites. All of the veggie starts are grown by Master Gardeners at the City of Bellevue greenhouse located just a few blocks from BDG.



Master Gardeners can pre-order plants for pick-up on Wednesday, May 10, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The sale will be open to the public on Saturday, May 13, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bellevue Demo Garden is located at 15500 SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Bellevue. Nearby parking is available both on the street and in the parking lot.

Master Gardeners interested in pre-ordering can contact Marcia Dillon at [dillon1962@att.net](mailto:dillon1962@att.net). Pre-orders are due no later than May 7.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Master Gardener Foundation of King County.



## As Predictable as Spring Daffodils: *The Clinics are Opening and Changes are Happening*

*...by Gary Scheider, Master Gardener and member of the Clinic Leadership Team*

By the time you read this, many of the clinics in the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program will be open for the 2023 season. Most of our Certified Master Gardeners and all 2023 Interns support the clinics with volunteer hours, and we're certain you're looking forward to the 2023 season.

The Program evolves a bit each year and you may notice some different procedures and materials at your clinics this season. The first and most significant change is the rollout of the nine [Program Priorities](#) which include topics like Wildfire Preparedness, Plant Biodiversity, Pollinators and Climate Change. Over half of our 26 clinics will receive additional training, which is being developed by the Program, to help clinic members become familiar with questions and conversations on these nine topics. These Priorities are important issues to home gardeners and the environment in Washington State.

[Read more](#)

## The Perfect Gift for Mom!

Mother's Day is May 14. Are you looking for something special for your mom? Look no further! We've got the gift that will keep on giving and provide your mom with gardening inspiration and know-how.



Give Mom classes to King County Master Gardeners' popular educational series **Growing Groceries** and **BDG Workshops**. Information and registration links can be found at [Growing Groceries](#) and at [BDG Workshops](#).

You can purchase either individual classes or purchase the entire Series. When you purchase a Series, all recordings of prior classes will be sent to Mom. (Many folks register just to get the class recordings!) Hint: When you register, fill out the form using Mom's name and email address.

**Happy Mother's Day to all!**



## New Look, New Host, Sharper Focus

*...by Penny Kriese, Master Gardener and Foundation Webmaster*

In 2004, the Master Gardener Foundation of King County approved funding for its first website, twenty years after being incorporated as a nonprofit organization in support of the

WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. With the loss of funding from both King County and WSU by 2010, the Master Gardener Foundation of King County (MGFKC) Board launched an extensive redesign, and the site became the major resource for all Master Gardener news as well as fundraising events and education in King County until the 2021 launch of the WSU Program website.

Now, in 2023, comes a major change to the Foundation website which is built in conjunction with the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State's multisite network (the Unified Foundation Website, UFW). With a cohesive look, foundation websites across Washington will display a look that confirms we are all unified in the effort to support and advocate for the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program.

[Read more](#)

---



### ***Vote! MGFKC Board Elections***

Please remember to vote on the new candidates for the board of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County! Your ballot must be submitted by May 15, 2023, in order to be counted. Look for the link to the voting site in the April 15 email sent by the president of the Foundation. (Subject line: VOTE for 2023 MGF Board by May 15). We hope you exercise your membership option to vote in this year's board election. Thank you for participating.

What does the Master Gardener Foundation of King County (MGFKC) do? Here's a hint... all the costs of doing business for King County Master Gardeners are paid by MGFKC! Take time to watch this [20-minute video](#) about the Foundation, its function within the Program and what the board members do. Viewing the video will count as Master Gardener Continuing Education, when recorded in GivePulse.

---

### **Note from the Program Coordinator: *What is the Extension?***

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

On April 8, I had the pleasure of attending a celebration of the WSU Extension Master Gardeners' 50th Anniversary at the Puyallup Research and Extension Center. Extension Master Gardeners of King County were well represented with many Certified Master Gardeners and some wonderful 2023 Interns showing up.



The event recognized the Extension faculty and staff who had the foresight and tenacity to grow our Program into the international phenomena that it is today. Founder Sharon Collman, along with families of two founders of the Master Gardeners, were present to receive our appreciation. The event was



followed by a tour of the lovely demonstration gardens, and a chance to meet with Pierce County Master Gardeners, Extension Staff and leadership at all levels including Wendy Powers, Dean of the CAHNRs (WSU's College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resources).

We often refer to WSU Extension in our Program title and in the titles of our Extension Master Gardeners but what, exactly, is "the Extension"? How does it connect to the Master Gardener Program and how does it connect to King County?

[Read more](#)

## Maple Valley Tribal Life Trail Hosts Second Graders

*...by Ankie Stroes, Master Gardener and Demonstration Garden Leader*

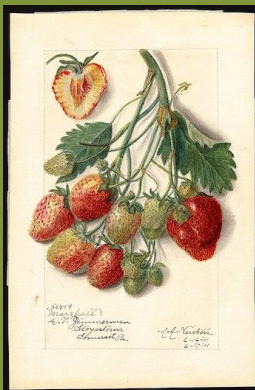
On March 30, the Tribal Life Trail, located at the Lake Wilderness Arboretum in Maple Valley, once again hosted the Lake Wilderness Elementary School second graders for their annual field trip. As part of the Washington State education curriculum, the students study Puget Sound Indigenous Tribal Life. The Tribal Life Trail is a perfect fit for this portion of their studies.



*Photo: Docents assisting students with their plant identification.*

*Photo credit: MG Ankie Stroes*

[Read more](#)



### ***Foodies in the Garden***

#### **‘Marshall’ Strawberry**

*...by Bruce Caredio, Master Gardener and Foundation Board Member*

A "new" small fruit offering by mail order and local nurseries is the 'Marshall' strawberry,

*Fragaria ananassa 'Marshall'*. Once thought extinct, the berry plant was rediscovered in 2004 and is now gaining popularity. We planted Marshall Strawberries late last summer in the perennial bed and they are adapting well. The berry plants were the latest plant exchange from our collaboration with gardeners at Ellensburg's Olmstead Pioneer Farm.

### **Quick Links**



[MGFKC](#)



[King County MG](#)

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

Considered the best-flavored American strawberry at the time, the 'Marshall' was extensively planted in the Pacific Northwest. Strawberries were the leading crop in Washington State in the early 20th century until the 1950s and 60s. Many believe the near demise of the plant in the 1940s was from perishability (poor candidate for shipping) and imported disease (strawberry wrinkle virus). However, further research links the war time internment of Japanese Americans as a major contributing factor to the 'Marshall' strawberry's fall from popularity. There were 55 Japanese American families that grew strawberries in the Bellevue area alone and many more on Vashon and Bainbridge Islands and the surrounding Puget Sound area. Japanese Americans farmed the Eastside lakeshore from Yarrow Bay, Hunt's Point, Medina, Newport and Mercer Slough to Sammamish.

[Read more](#)

*Image credit: Amanda Almira Newton ca. 1860-1943  
(Public Domain)*

## 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](#)

## WSU Extension Master Gardeners in King County: *Early Days*

*...by Marty Byrne, Master Gardener and Communications Committee Chair*

Many WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers have contributed significantly to the Program over our 50-year history. George Pinyuh was one of those. George took over as WSU Cooperative Extension agent in 1976 after Dr. David Gibby left for other pursuits. George stayed in that position until his retirement in 1994.

[Read more](#)



[Donate to MGFKC](#)



[MG Program Priorities](#)

## Finn Hill Demo Garden: Spring Youth Outreach

...by Sharon O'Grady, Master Gardener  
and Demonstration Garden Leader

Master Gardener volunteers from the Finn Hill demo garden have been in high gear this spring offering Youth Outreach programs to 28 preschool children at the St. John Vianney Church on Tuesday, April 18, and also to a smaller group of middle school students at the Environmental and Adventure School on April 19.



The preschoolers were split into three groups and rotated through three learning stations. Master Gardener Sharon O'Grady led a garden tour and showed them a variety of overwintered produce (kale, Swiss chard, mustard greens, carrots, garlic chives, onions and shallots) with nearly all of them eager to snack on the greens! The two other sessions were held inside the classroom with Master Gardener Alex Cowan showing them the plant life cycle process using dry seeds, germinated seeds and small seedlings sporting a tiny stem and "seed leaves." Each child got to plant a sunflower seed in a peat pot and label it with their name. Meanwhile, Master Gardener Susan Busch captivated the third group of students at the worm bin station teaching them the value of composting with worms, what worms eat, what they need for bedding and best of all being able to touch them! A great day was had by all!

[Read more](#)

*Photo: Preschoolers check out the overwintered produce in a raised garden bed.*

*Photo credit: Teacher Annette Schwientek*



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.mgfk.org/>

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

## ***Remembering... Master Gardener Signa Treat***

*...by Marty Byrne, Master Gardener and  
Communication Committee Chair*

Former Master Gardener Signa Treat passed away on April 8, 2023. She had been living in Idaho. She was 86.

Signa moved to Seattle in 1991. She joined the Master Gardener Program in King County in 2005, serving actively until 2015. She was active in the Shoreline/Lake Forest Park Clinic and served as its leader for a time.

If you wish to share a memory, feel free to post it to the tribute wall on the page below.

<https://www.cremationsociety-idaho.com/tributes/Signa-M-Treat>

## **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](#)

## **New King County Extension 4-H Faculty and County Director Hired**

Alyssa Bowers has been hired as the new King County Extension 4-H Faculty and County Director beginning June 1.

### **Save the Date: Diagnostic Lab Workshops**

Attention Master Gardeners! Are you interested in polishing your diagnostic skills? The Diagnostic Lab and the Education Leadership Team are offering two in-person, Diagnostic Workshops on Friday, June 23 at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Session One will be from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and Session Two will be from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The sessions will be presented by Extension Coordinator/Educator Jenny Glass. Jenny is the diagnostician for the Plant and Insect Diagnostics Lab in Puyallup. Registration will begin in May, watch your email for more details and how to sign up.



## **Learn about the Program Priorities and Earn CE**

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

We've just completed our 2023 training classes for new interns to our Program. I'm pleased to announce that we have 105 Master Gardener Interns joining our



program for the 2023 season. Please welcome them as you work alongside them in our Plant Clinics and Demonstration Gardens – and as we celebrate our 50th year serving the public.

The interns were introduced to the nine Program Priorities and heard about them from several speakers. I'm sharing this [introduction to the Program Priorities](#), a slightly modified version of the one I presented to the new trainees. It is relevant to all Master Gardeners, and I hope you'll take advantage of earning CE hours by viewing it. As you do, please record the time in GivePulse.

## *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.

**May 3: Perennial Vegetables and Hardy Herbs**, presented by author and Master Gardener Bill Thorness.

**May 17: Beans and Summer and Winter Squash** presented by Master Gardener Emile Castle.

**May 31: Container Vegetable Gardening**, presented by Master Gardener Joan Baldwin.

### ***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.

**May 6: Natural Pest and Disease Control**, presented by Laura Matter, Program Director of Natural Yard Care, Tilth Alliance.

**May 20: Adapting Old Gardens to New Ways**, presented by Christina Pfeiffer, Horticulture Consultant.

**June 3: The Art & Science of Watering** presented by Master Gardener Jim Olson.



### **WSU Master Gardener Online Workshops**

**Tuesdays in May 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](https://zoom.us)), then join from

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

[https://wsu.zoom.us/j/7756056320?](https://wsu.zoom.us/j/7756056320?pwd=RzVxbTI0dXpyUjJjSDdsWnJuTXdydz09)

[pwd=RzVxbTI0dXpyUjJjSDdsWnJuTXdydz09](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](mailto:garyf@wsu.edu) or 360-577-3014 Ext. 3.

**May 2: Inviting Pollinators and Pest-fighting Insects to Your Garden** presented by Master Gardener Alice Slusher.

**May 9: How to Compost Successfully**, presented by WSU Coordinator Gary Fredricks.

**May 16: Vertical Gardening**, presented by Master Gardener Marilee Hertig.

**May 23: Controlling Moles**, presented by Master Gardener Sara Brown.

**May 30: Growing a Red Tomato in the PNW**, presented by WSU Master Gardeners Alice Slusher.

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

**March 18 – May 31: 13th Annual Cabin Fever Virtual Gardening**

**Symposium.** Class information and tickets are available [here](#). 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.

### **Bellevue Botanical Garden**

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

**May 11: Moss Walk in the Garden**, an in-person walk led by Dan Paquette, member of the International Association of Bryologists.

**May 17: Parallel Art Forms: The Intersection of Garden Design and Photo Composition**, a hybrid event by taught by Jason Morse, landscape architect and strategic advisor to the Arboretum Foundation.

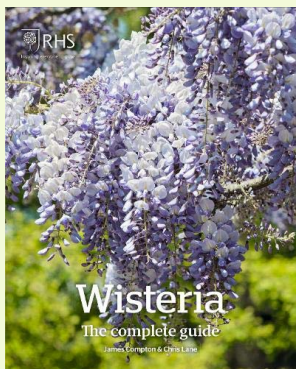
**May 19: Curator Walk: Passing the Barberry**, an in-person walk led by Alex Wright, Bellevue Botanical Garden curator.

### **Washington Native Plant Society**

**April 6: Heavy Metals in Moss Guide Environmental Justice Investigation: a Seattle Study**, a Zoom webinar presented by Dr. Sarah Jovan, Research Ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service. Find more information and registration [here](#).

## WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference

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



### *Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection*

#### *Wisteria: The Complete Guide*

In May, wisteria will seduce you with its heady fragrance and cascades of blossoms, but by August it will be grabbing everything in sight, including the rain gutters! Find advice on how to grow, prune and propagate this spectacular, muscular vine in *Wisteria: The Complete Guide*.

*Wisteria: The Complete Guide* by James Compton and Chris Lane was published in May 2019 by the Royal Horticultural Society. Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature, reviewed the book.

[Read more](#)



#### *Events and Coming Attractions*

**Ask-a-Master-Gardener Pop-up Clinic** on Saturday, May 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Picardo Farm P-Patch Community Garden, 8040 25th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA. [Google Maps link.](#)

**Interbay P-Patch Perennial Plant Sale**, on Saturday, May 6, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 7, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Interbay P-Patch Community Garden, 2451 15th Avenue NW, Seattle, WA. Select from a variety of flowering perennials,

groundcovers and more. Cash and credit cards accepted.

**MGFKC Board Meeting** on Thursday, May 11, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. online Zoom meeting. Information and details at <http://www.mgfk.org/events/mgfk-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

**Bellevue Demonstration Garden Plant Sale** on Saturday May 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Bellevue Demonstration Garden, 15500 SE 16th Street, Bellevue, WA.

**Ask-a-Master-Gardener Pop-up Clinic** at the **National Public Gardens Day**

**Event** on May 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks & Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Garden, 3015 NW 54th Street, Seattle, WA. [Google Maps link.](#)

**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, WA .

### 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!**