

# MASTER GARDENER connection

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

SEPTEMBER 2023

## Bellevue Demo Garden Harvest Festival & Plant Sale

*...by Marcia Dillon, Extension Master Gardener*

The Bellevue Demonstration Garden's Harvest Festival returns this year after a three year absence. The event, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., is free and open to the public. The festival will take place at the Bellevue Demo Garden, 5500 SE 16th St, Bellevue WA 98007. It will feature harvest-oriented displays and demonstrations, a plant sale and garden marketplace, children's activities and more. September is a wonderful time to take in the gorgeous dahlia beds and annuals display at Bellevue Demonstration Garden. See what vegetable varieties have grown well this year and make notes for your own garden next year. For more information contact Marcia Dillon at [dillon1962@att.net](mailto:dillon1962@att.net).



## Growing Groceries Tours Marymoor Community Garden Association

*...by Extension Master Gardeners Gia Parsons, Carol Johnson and Susan Busch*

WSU Extension Master Gardeners of King County (KCMG) Growing Groceries leadership and faculty took advantage of a beautiful August day to celebrate a successful year and wrap-up of the 2023 Growing Groceries season.

The group began with a tour of the Marymoor Community Garden Association (MCGA) at Marymoor Park in Redmond. EMG Gia Parsons and EMG Carol

Johnson hosted the tour. This community garden venue demonstrates a perfect example of Growing Groceries in action! The garden has a culturally diverse population of gardeners representing over fifty countries. The unique foodstuffs grown, as well as inspiring methods of growing, were very evident. The garden has approximately two hundred plots and is described as a patchwork quilt; each plot is different, some all vegetables, some all flowers and some a mixture. Along with the huge assortment of flowers and blooming foods, the garden also has a dedicated pollinator plot.

[Read more](#)

*Photo: Vegetables harvested from the food bank garden at Marymoor Community Garden Association*

*Photo credit: EMG Carol Johnson*

## Applying Master Gardener Guidelines to Community Action

*...by Bruce Caredio, Extension Master Gardener*

Many WSU Extension Master Gardeners also belong to other community service organizations that are looking for team building and community improvement projects. A great way to extend the reach of the Program is to apply the nine Program Priorities recently set forth by WSU Extension.



Some examples of community service organizations are garden clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, church groups, student community service organizations, Rotary and Kiwanis. While we can't claim Master Gardener Service Hours when volunteering for these groups, we can still contribute our knowledge and skills. The suggested projects listed under each of the nine Program Priorities below are just a small sample of the possibilities. Please pass this information along to leaders in the community groups to which you belong.

[Read more](#)

## Pop-up Clinic Success at Kenmore Play Day

*...by Extension Master Gardener Donna Wood*

Tucked away in a centrally located corner of Kenmore lies [Kenmore Rhododendron Park](#). This 13-acre public park features one of the largest public collections of hybrid rhododendrons in the Pacific Northwest and has recently been "adopted" by the Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteers who formerly worked at the Finn Hill Demonstration Garden. These Master Gardeners held their first event, a pop-up clinic, on July 29th in conjunction with the annual Kenmore Play Day. Pop-up clinic activities were designed to promote the three WSU Extension Program Priorities of Nearby Nature, Pollinators and Soil Health. Many clients had not just one or two, but multiple questions, making for a busy and fun day.



The Play Day event was staffed by seven Extension Master Gardeners with three at the Ask-a-Master-Gardener clinic booth and four roaming Master Gardeners in the park to engage visitors. The booth had a main table for client questions and two side tables for the worm bin (Soil Health) and Pollinator displays. The traveling worm bin stole the show with both the kids and adults; these bins should be considered for every Master Gardener event!

[Read more](#)

*Photo: EMG Donna Wood with EMG Interns Karen Adams and Aya Wilde staff the pop-up clinic booth for Play Day at Kenmore Rhododendron Park.*

*Photo credit: EMG Sharon O'Grady*

## MGFKC Welcomes Daryl Schlessor to the Board

A Master Gardener since 2003, Daryl Schlessor began gardening with his parents at a very young age. By the age of six, he had his own garden plot with strawberry plants and crocosmia from his grandmother's garden. Those crocosmia are still flourishing more than a half century later at his childhood home near Grays Harbor!



Daryl learned of the Master Gardener Program through friends in the early 2000s. When asked what inspired him to become a Master Gardener, Daryl said, "I felt teaching people about sustainable gardening would be the perfect combination of my passion for gardening and my desire to give back to my community."

[Read more](#)

## Ageless Sweetness: *the Fig*



*...by Extension Master Gardener Bruce Caredio*

While not wildly popular like apples and stone fruits, fig trees have gained some popularity and are widely planted in Puget Sound

gardens. These fruit trees are generally disease and insect free but may need protection from cold weather. Grown for edible fruit, the fig (*Ficus carica*), originated in the eastern Mediterranean and western Asia. As its name indicates, this fruit tree comes from the large genus, *Ficus*. This genus includes many well-known species such as *F. benghalensis* (the Banyan tree of Asia and Hawaii), *F. benjamina* (a popular house plant), *F.*

### Quick Links



[MGFKC](#)



[King County MG](#)

[Become a Master Gardener](#)



*elastica* (the rubber tree), *F. lyrata* (the fiddle-leaf fig) and others.

Cultivation of figs is one of the most ancient agricultural endeavors in human history and may be the first fruit grown by man. Archaeological evidence from the Jordan Valley dates fig remains to about 11,400 years ago. This predates the domestication of wheat by 1,000 years. The ancient Egyptians grew figs (*F. sycamorus*), gave them as offerings at temples and to the gods, and constructed coffins from fig wood.

[Read more](#)

*Photo: Ficus carica 'Olympian'*

*Photo credit: EMG Bruce Caredio*

[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](#)

## Master Gardeners of the Future: *Evolving with the needs of the communities they serve*

*...by Angela Sams, WSU CAHNRS PR/Communications Coordinator*

Since its establishment at Washington State University in 1973, the Extension Master Gardener Program has fostered thriving communities and supported a healthy planet through research-based education.

The world has changed significantly since the early 1970s. The program is now turning its attention to ways it too can evolve over the next 50 years and beyond, all while remaining relevant to the communities it serves.

"The Master Gardener Program must keep its pulse on local community needs, and how best to engage with those communities, big and small," said Jennifer Marquis, statewide lead of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program.

[Read the full article from "On Solid Ground"](#)

## Program Priorities: *Clean Water*

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

With the dry summer we are experiencing this year, water is on all of our minds. Extension Master Gardeners are eager adopters of waterwise gardening practices and often report giving advice on water conservation. But Clean Water, another of our Program Priorities, is equally important. The role of home gardeners in keeping contaminants out of the watershed is critical.

[Read more](#)





## Getting Ready for Next Year's Interns

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

On September 1, the application process opens for the 2024 intern class. You can find a link [here](#), with content on Becoming a Master Gardener. Please share this information widely with your network. The training team is busily planning the speaker schedule, preparing support materials for mentors, and lining up topics. We are gathering information from this year's interns about what went well and where we can make changes to improve their first year of training, and their transition into the Program. We want to create a training plan that meets the needs of an increasingly diverse group of interns and prepares them to engage in meaningful interactions with the community, in their first year and for many years after.



[Ways to donate to MGFKC](#)



[MG Program Priorities](#)

## Challenge Yourself with Continuing Education

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

All Certified Master Gardeners are required to complete ten hours of Continuing Education (CE) each year and Emeritus Master Gardeners have a requirement to complete at least five. The intention of Continuing Education is to keep Extension Master Gardeners caught up with new research, excited about what they do, and to fill gaps in knowledge since each of us has areas of expertise and subjects we are less familiar with.

[Read more](#)

## Annual Certification Reminder

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

The annual certification process begins in October and hours for the year must

be completed by November 30 in order to meet the certification deadline. If you need Service Hours, please start by contacting your clinic or demonstration garden leader, who may be in need of volunteer help to close out their season. The mid-month *Garden of Opportunities* email always has calls for volunteer help. For the next months, we will make an extra effort to include some unconventional projects that can be done remotely and others that can be done at the Program office. If you are still concerned about meeting your hours requirement, please let us know at [king.mg@wsu.edu](mailto:king.mg@wsu.edu). The sooner we are aware, the sooner we can help you with a plan.

[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.

## When are Garden Tours CE Eligible?

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

If you are like me, you can't resist a garden tour. Whether it's part of a historical home or a docent-led tour of a renowned garden, I never turn down the opportunity and I always learn something new. However, many wonderful tours are not Continuing Education (CE) eligible. As a quick reminder, page 27 of the [Master Gardener Handbook](#) outlines "What does not qualify for continuing education?" The list includes: "Trips

## 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 tours not preapproved by the program coordinator.”

[Read more](#)



and garden locations using the [MGFKC map](#)

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

## Staying Mission Driven: A Civil Rights Conversation

In the July 27 Staying Mission Driven session, Extension Master Gardeners were presented with an opportunity to learn about and better understand the Civil Rights background behind our Demographic Collection Process. **If you did not attend this important session, you can [view the recording](#) now.**

After watching, please record one hour under the “Staying Mission Driven – 2023” category in GivePulse, selecting the Thursday, July 27th, 2023 event date (you may then change the date section to reflect your actual date). Staying Mission Driven activities are automatically counted as Continuing Education.

## 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.

**September 9: PNW Gardening and Climate Change**, presented by

Extension Master Gardeners Molly Van der Burch and James Little.

**September 23: Gardening with Native Plants**, presented by Rita Moore, Washington Native Plant Steward, King Conservation District.

### ***San Juan County WSU Master Gardener Annual Workshop Series***

**October 17 – 26: Annual Gardening Workshop**, a lecture series consisting of eight one-hour presentations on Zoom with additional time for questions and discussion. Visit [gardenworkshop.org](https://gardenworkshop.org) for more information and registration.

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

**Tuesdays in September 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?  
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.

### **September 5: Waterwise Gardening –**

**Growing Plants with Less Water**, presented by Extension Master Gardener Alice Slusher.

**September 12: Growing Garlic**, presented by Extension Master Gardener Billie Bevers.

**September 19: How to Compost Successfully**, presented by Extension Master Gardener Art Fuller.

**September 26: Dividing Perennials**, presented by Extension Master Gardener Gail Gibbard.

### ***King Conservation District***

**September 21: Understanding Soil Health**, a free webinar to learn about soil basics, KCD's Soil Nutrient Testing Program and ways to improve soil health. Find information and registration [here](#).

### ***Tilth Alliance***

**September 9: Home Composting with Food Waste Workshop** a free, in-person event in McAuliffe Park, Kirkland, presented by Anita Waghani. Find more information [here](#).

### ***WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference***

**September 27 – 30, 2023** at the Marriott Tacoma Downtown in Tacoma,



*A SEED  
planted today  
is a GIFT  
for tomorrow*



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EXTENSION

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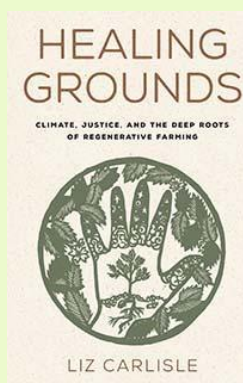
We use knowledge to empower healthy and resilient communities, but what if we could do more?

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is raising \$1.5 million to hire a horticulture professor fully dedicated to the Program and to the volunteers who give their time and talents.

Learn how your gift will support a greener, healthier Washington when you give to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Endowed Chair Fund.



To support this campaign, scan the QR code or visit [mastergardener.wsu.edu/how-to-donate](https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/how-to-donate)



### ***Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection***

## ***Healing Grounds: Climate, Justice, and the Deep Roots of Regenerative Farming***

"In *Healing Grounds*, Liz Carlisle tells the stories of Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and Asian American farmers who are reviving their ancestors' methods of growing food—techniques long suppressed by the industrial food system.

These farmers are restoring native prairies, nurturing beneficial fungi, and enriching soil health. While feeding their communities and revitalizing cultural ties to land, they are steadily stitching ecosystems back together and repairing the natural carbon cycle."\*

*Healing Grounds: Climate, Justice, and the Deep Roots of Regenerative Farming* by Liz Carlisle was published by Island Press in March 2022. Priscilla Grundy, a volunteer in the archives of the Miller Library, reviewed the book.

[Read more](#)



## ***Events and Coming Attractions***

The Washington Native Plant Society's (WNPS) Central Puget Sound chapter will be partnering with the Eastside Fuchsia Society (EFS) for a **Fall Plant Sale** on Sunday, September 10, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The WNPS booth will offer 500+ plants that includes a selection of approximately 30 species of native shrubs, perennials, and ground covers. The EFS will be selling fuchsias, daylilies and bearded iris rhizomes. The sale will be held at the Aaron Education Center and Paccar Pavilion, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St, Bellevue, WA 98005.

**MGFKC Board Meeting** on Thursday, September 14, 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

**Bellevue Demo Garden Harvest Festival & Plant Sale** on Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bellevue Demonstration Garden, 5500 SE 16th St, Bellevue WA 98007.

## ***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.*

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