

MASTER GARDENER connection

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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

Thank You for Your Thyme: Appreciation Event had Great Turnout

...by Joe Jennings, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board Member

On Saturday, October 21, over 120 Extension Master Gardeners, friends and family attended the 2023 "Thank You for Your Thyme!" Fall Member Appreciation Event at Bellevue Botanical Garden. Co-hosted by Program Coordinator Sarah Moore and Foundation President Joan Baldwin, the luncheon event recognized, celebrated and brought together Master Gardeners as individuals, duos and teams who made a difference for the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program in 2023.

[Read the full article](#)



The audience applauds at the Member Appreciation Event. Photo credit: Program Assistant Nora Larson



Program Coordinator Sarah Moore presents EMG Daryl Schlessor with the award for Outstanding Master Gardener while Foundation President Joan Baldwin looks on.

Photo credit: Program Assistant Nora Larson



Holiday Gift Giving!

Watch for our 2024 class registration links in early December

Growing Groceries Classes and Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops will begin again in January 2024. Both of these educational series will have new topics and speakers in addition to past favorites.

Growing Groceries (GG) 2024 will offer 12 classes in spring and fall of 2024. New GG topics will include “Extended-season Techniques” and “Soil-to-Table Tips”.

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops (BDGW) 2024 will offer 22 classes in the spring and fall of 2024. New BDGW speakers and topics will include Richie Steffen, Executive Director of the Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden presenting “Ferns” and Ross Bayton, Garden Director at Heronswood Garden presenting “Choosing Conifers for Color.”

Watch for the 2024 GG and BDGW registration links in your email in early December... just in time for your holiday giving! Subscriptions to these fantastic educational series make a great gift and will keep on giving throughout 2024.



Farewell from a Longtime Master Gardener

...by Extension Master Gardener Emily Bishton

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

After 28 years as an Extension Master Gardener – mostly involved with youth and family garden education programs – I’ve decided to retire and bid you all a fond “fare-thee-well”. I still remember with gratitude, way back in 1996, the veteran Master Gardeners James Jackson, Nancy Radcliffe, Marilyn Tilbury and others who took me under their wings at the Rainier Ask-a-Master-Gardener Clinic and mentored me on positive ways to deliver public education. Their friendship and inspiration will never be forgotten, along with all the school and youth garden leaders, volunteers and kids I met during my first 10 years as a Master Gardener, traveling to gardens all over King County and beyond.

[Read the full article](#)

Photo: EMG Emily Bishton



MGFKC Reimbursement Requests Due by November 12

Please submit your request for reimbursement of expenses no later than **Sunday, November 12, 2023**. A link to the MGFKC Reimbursement Form can be found at mgfkc.org under "Foundation Member Resources" in the password protected Member Area. Reimbursement requests can be emailed to treasurer@mgfkc.org or mailed to *Master Gardener Foundation of King County, Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington, Box 354115, Seattle, WA 98195*. All reimbursement requests must be submitted in the year incurred.

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](#)

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.

A House Plant from the Produce Department of an Asian Market?

...by Extension Master Gardener Bruce Caredio

Many of us remember when our mother saved an avocado seed, stuck three round toothpicks in it, and suspended the seed partially in a glass of water. With some luck, the avocado "pit" would eventually sprout roots and send up a stem sporting green, narrow, pointed leaves. Some of these seedlings were hardy enough to make the transition to a pot with soil and kept growing. Sensitive to cold temperatures in northern latitudes, most of



the seedlings remained indoors. Well, there is a new twist to the houseplant from the market's produce department. A handsome, inexpensive houseplant can be grown from the tuber commonly called a "hairy potato" or Satoimo, a taro.

Taro, *Colocasia esculenta*, is grown in the tropical regions around the globe in Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean, and South America. In Japanese, the name Sato Imo translates to "homeland potato". Satoimo grows wild in Japan and parts of Southeast Asia. It is a small type of taro known scientifically as *Colocasia esculenta* var. *antiquorum*. The root crop may have been grown in Asia as far back as 14,000 years ago and was an essential part of the diet before rice became widely cultivated.

[Read the full article](#)

Photo: Satoimo in the produce section of an Asian market. Photo credit: EMG Bruce Caredio



[Ways to donate to MGFKC](#)



[MG Program Priorities](#)

Fire-Resistant Landscape Gardening: Fall Maintenance & Pruning

...by Joe Jennings, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board Member

On October 21, Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops presented *Fire-Resistant Landscape (FRL) Gardening, Fall Maintenance and Pruning*. The workshop was taught by Extension Master Gardener Joe Jennings with Mike Lasecki, Program Coordinator, Wildfire Preparedness Program, King Conservation District and Connor McDermott, Board President, PlantAmnesty collaborating. Fire-resistant landscape gardening is the use of drought-tolerant, ecologically and location appropriate plants, materials, design and maintenance, to prevent the spread of fire to your home. This class focused on first-year FRL gardeners, teaching them how to keep the landscape zones closest to their structures lean, green and clean. The workshop introduced accepted pruning practices and contacts for pruning resources and classes.



[Read the full article](#)

Photo: An example of fire-resistant landscaping.



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.



Become a Docent at Bellevue Botanical Garden

Our partner, Bellevue Botanical Garden and Society, will start another docent training class in February 2024. Applications to join this class are available from Rhoda at rhodas@intetum.com. Presently, five Extension Master Gardeners are amongst the roughly 30 docents who provide both scheduled and unscheduled tours at the Garden. While time served as a docent does not count as service or other hours for the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program, it is a very rewarding role.

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

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

BDG Workshops classes are finished for the season. Please visit the [Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops](#) page for information and registration for future classes.

WSU Master Gardener Online Workshops

November 7 at 12:00 p.m.: Tool Sharpening, a free webinar presented by Extension Master Gardener Art Fuller. Learn how to give your tools the edge that will shorten work and make chores easier and more enjoyable. *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](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.

WSU Clark County Master Gardeners

November 2, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Resilient Gardens for a Changing Climate, a virtual webinar presented by Linda Gilkeson, Entomologist and author of *Backyard Bounty: The Complete Guide to Year-Round Organic Gardening in the Pacific Northwest*. This presentation covers how extreme weather affects plants, how to design resilient food and ornamental gardens and help plants survive extreme weather. Register in advance at https://wsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rdOuhqDMjE9BhA4WUL7d_WygyBF6mZ1T_. [You must have a (free) Zoom account to participate.] After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the

meeting.

Seattle Tree Fruit Society (STFS)

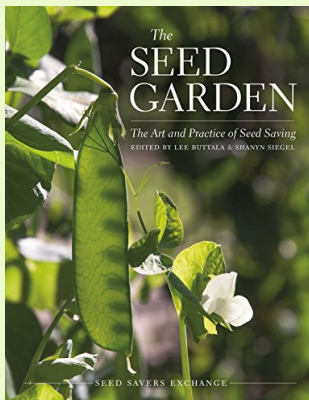
Saturday, November 11, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Attend a free apple identification class led by Lorine Brakken at the Seattle Waldorf School, 2728 NE 100th Street, Seattle, WA 98125. This class will qualify for KCMG 2023 Continuing Education credit. Lori's recent fruit ID ventures and an apple identification primer are featured in past STFS newsletters [USP 40 05 2022 May](#), RSVP to seattletreefruitsociety@gmail.com by Friday, November 3, for suggested materials to bring along with your mystery apples.

King Conservation District

November 6: Benefits and Beauty of Landscaping with Native Plants, a free webinar with Marinn Carpenter, native plant expert. The talk will cover the benefits that native plants provide for landscape aesthetics, wildlife habitat and water quality. People who attend this webinar will also get \$10 in credit on orders over \$50 at the KCD native plant sale in 2024 (orders open in November 2023). Sign-up here: <https://nativeplanttalk23.eventbrite.com>.

Pacific Northwest Invasive Plants Council

November 9, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m: **Aquatics Invasive Species EDRR & Cynobacteria ID Training with Lake User Best Management Practices**, presented by Jen Maucher from the Phytoplankton Monitoring Network at NOAA, Lizbeth Seebacher from the Dept. of Ecology, and Lauren Keuhne from the PNW IPC. This free virtual workshop specifically focuses on aquatic invasive species, cyanobacteria id and ecology and Best Management Practices for lake residents and lake users. Register [here](#).



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection

The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving

Want to learn more about saving your own seeds? Whether you are a beginner or an experienced seed saver, *The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving*, has lots of practical advice along with clear instructions.

The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving was published in May 2015, by Seed Savers Exchange. Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature, reviewed the book.

[Read the review](#)



MGFKC Board Meeting on Thursday, November 9, 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

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.



Like us on Facebook!

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