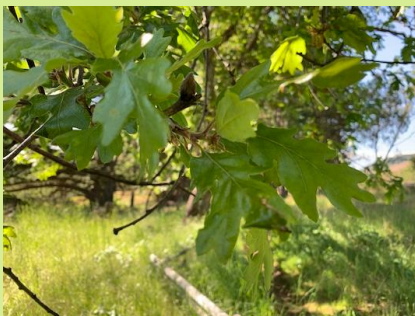




MASTER GARDENER connection

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

FEBRUARY 2024



The Interconnectedness of It All

...by Extension Master Gardener Bruce Caredio

Doug Tallamy is an entomologist and professor of agriculture and natural resources at the University of Delaware. In recent years he has authored a number of books including *The Nature of Oaks*. In this book, Professor Tallamy describes how important insect life, particularly moths and butterflies, is to the lives of birds. He points out the fact that these insects, in turn, are greatly dependent upon one species of tree, the oak. While other plants provide some habitat for "bird food", the oaks are by far the greatest source and Tallamy calls them a "keystone" species. We can liken the situation to a domino effect: Loss of habitat leads to loss of oaks, then insects and finally, on to a diminishing number of birds.

[Read the full article](#)

Photo: Leaves of the Garry oak tree, Quercus garryana. Photo credit: EMG Heather Fuller



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 approved webinars, classes, lectures and workshops from a variety of 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.

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 MGFKC Education page:

kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.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 14: Vegetables A to Z, presented by Extension Master Gardener Joan Veach.

February 28: All About Backyard Berries and Small Fruits, presented by Extension Master Gardeners Brandon Bray and Gia Parsons.

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops

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

February 3: Trial by Fire! Propagation: From Seed to Spore and Cuttings, presented by Dell Brummet, head gardener at Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.

February 10: Starting Flower and Vegetable Seeds, presented by Extension Master Gardener Colleen Donahue.

February 24: Composting with Confidence! presented by Extension Master Gardener Joan Veach.

March 2: Common Pests and Diseases of Rhododendrons, presented by Atsuko Gibson, Nursery Manager Rhododendron Species Garden.

WSU Master Gardener Online Workshops

Tuesdays in February 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.

February 6: Rose Care in the Spring, presented by Extension Master Gardener Michele Thomas. Fertilizing, pruning and nurturing your roses for better blooms this summer.

February 13: Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden, presented by Extension Master Gardener Heidi Hubler. Convert your yard into a pollinator paradise.

February 20: Grape Care and Pruning, presented by Extension Master Gardener Sara Clark. Unravel the secrets of grapevine pruning and nurturing grape starts.

February 27: Transforming Your Landscape, presented by Extension Master Gardener and licensed landscape architect Wendy Santiago. Gain insights into selecting appropriate plants for specific locations, crafting outdoor living areas and creating an enjoyable outdoor environment.

Washington Native Plant Society

February 6: Landscaping with Native Plants, presented by Julie O'Donald, Community Wildlife Habitat Steward and Master Gardener. Learn the fine points of creating a beautiful garden that attracts birds and pollinators by integrating native plants into garden landscapes. This free, in-person presentation at Bellevue Botanical Garden's Aaron Education Center will also be live-streamed via Zoom. Visit <https://www.wnps.org/cps-events/central-puget-sound-landscaping-with-native-plants> for more information and to register.

Island County Master Gardener Foundation

March 2: Whidbey Gardening Workshop, a one-day, in-person workshop at Oak Harbor High School with classes, panel discussions, hands-on learning and demonstrations. Visit www.whidbeygardening.org for more information and registration.

Northwest Flower & Garden Festival

February 14 – 18: See the article titled, "Earn CE at Select Northwest Flower & Garden Festival Seminars" below for a list of the seminars which have been pre-approved for Continuing Education hours. Use this [link](#) to purchase discounted admission to the Festival prior to February 14.

Save the Date:

Earn CE at Select Northwest Flower & Garden Festival Seminars

...by The Education Leadership Team



In addition to beautiful flower displays and exhibitor booths, the Northwest Flower & Garden Festival (NWFGF) offers a wide variety of seminars. Some of these seminars will be pre-approved to count towards Master Gardener Continuing Education (CE) hours. The question is, which seminars are pre-approved?

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program has confirmed in advance which seminars are pre-approved for CE hours. You can find the 2024 NWFGF daily schedule with pre-approved seminars [here](#). Also, all Extension Master Gardeners will receive a list of approved seminars in an email before the NWFGF begins on February 14th. So, enjoy all that the Festival has to offer and, once it ends, remember to enter your CE hours into GivePulse.



New for 2024: Growing Groceries Corner

February is an ideal month to order supplies and begin planting seeds indoors for yummy spring and summer veggies (and flowers, too)! Click [here](#) to view a short video and learn how to make your own seed starting mix. In this episode, Master Gardener Foundation of King County President Joan Baldwin presents her recipe for making seed starting mix at home.

And don't forget to [register here](#) for the February 10th BDG Workshop, "Starting Flower and Vegetable Seeds" with Extension Master Gardener Colleen Donahue who grows over six hundred plants from seed in her greenhouse each spring!

Continuing Education is Fun and Easy!

...by Dawn Rubstello, Extension Master Gardener and member of the Education Leadership Team



The winter months are a wonderful time to challenge yourself by engaging in new educational opportunities. This knowledge can then be applied in your work as a Clinician or as a Demonstration Garden volunteer. So how do you find these opportunities?

Start by going to the Program Volunteer Only website. If you need the link or the password, please refer to your January 5th email sent by Program

[Read the full article](#)



Northwest Flower & Garden Festival Early Bird Discount Tickets

Come see the WSU Extension Master Gardeners at the 2024 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival scheduled for February 14 – 18 in Seattle!

Take advantage of a \$5 early bird discount on your tickets by purchasing through this link: https://bit.ly/24NWFG_MasterGardeners.

Additionally, for each ticket bought via this link, \$2 will be contributed to support the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State.

The discounted advance price of \$22 is available through February 13, 2024.

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](#)

WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Impact Report

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

I would like to share the [WSU Extension Master Gardener Program 2022 Impact Report with you](#). This statewide report summarizes the contributions of Master Gardener Programs from all the counties in Washington and shows the impact we have had across the nine Program Priorities.



Take a look in the “Nearby Nature” section on pages 36 and 37, for stories about the impact WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners (KCMG) have had on their communities. I am very proud of the work you do and I’m grateful that you share your successes with me so that I, in turn, can share them with state leadership.

[Read the full article](#)



[Ways to donate to MGFKC](#)



[MG Program Priorities](#)



Meet MGFKC Board Member Dawn Rubstello

New Foundation board member, EMG Dawn Rubstello, shares a bit about her background in science and her passion for education, science and gardening.

[Read the full article](#)

Photo: EMG Dawn Rubstello



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/>



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** information, log into the "KCMGs, Only" area.

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



A Holly by Any Other Name...

...by Extension Master Gardener Bruce Bennett

Ideas for a gardening article can come from the most random places. This month's column arose from a Christmas party where two colleagues were discussing their homes' decorative foliage from the just-past holiday season. Both ladies had clipped branches from their backyard to use in table centerpieces and wreaths. Both claimed to have used 'native holly' even though the foliage from the two was different. That's generally the time when I get drawn into the conversation (from another activity that I'm actually enjoying – Go Huskies!). Despite having evergreen, shiny, pointy leaves, even in the Northwest, not all such shrubs are, in fact, 'hollies'. When I looked at the inevitable cell phone pictures of the respective landscapes and the shrubs in question, the plant identities were easily sorted out. (By the way, when did taking smartphone pictures of one's landscape plants become 'a thing'?)

[Read the full article](#)

Of Interest to You

Tip Sheets for KC

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)

WHERE am I?

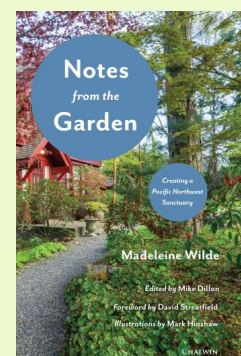
Find King County Master Gardener clinic and garden locations using the [MGFKC map](#)

Sign up to receive the Master Gardener Connection

Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection

Notes from the Garden: Creating a Pacific Northwest Sanctuary

February's book selection is a collection of essays by local author Madeleine Wilde. Her writing ranges from praise for a brown lawn to prose on the quality of light in autumn.



Notes from the Garden: Creating A Pacific Northwest Sanctuary was published in October 2021, by Chatwin Books. Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature, reviewed the book.

[Read the review](#)



Events and Coming Attractions

MGFKC Board Meeting on Thursday, February 8, 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

Attend the **Northwest Flower & Garden Festival** February 14 – 18, 2023, at the Seattle Convention Center, 705 Pike Street, Seattle, WA. Find more information at gardenshow.com.

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.



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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.



Master Gardener Foundation of King County | c/o WSU Extension King County, 560 Naches Avenue SW, Suite 130, Renton, WA 98057-2219

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