



# master gardener connection

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

**February 2025**

## **2025 Annual Meeting Showcases Exciting Program Growth**



By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

On January 30, the Master Gardener Foundation of King County held its annual meeting. More than 80 foundation members attended the 45-minute meeting to hear an update on the state of both the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program and the Foundation.

[Read More About the Meeting](#)

### **Our Program's Year At a Glance**

By Sarah Moore, WSU Extension King  
County Master Gardener Program  
Coordinator

Here are some incredible 2024 program highlights that were shared at the Master Gardener Foundation of King County's annual meeting:

### **"Building Community" Fall Appeal Update**

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master  
Gardener and Foundation Board  
President

Results are in from the Master Gardener Foundation of King County 2024 Fall Appeal fundraising event, "Building Community."

- **611** King County Extension Master Gardeners (KCMGs) completed certification in 2024—a **95%** return rate
- KCMGs staffed **48** outreach clinics—28 more than in 2023
- Our volunteers served **31,652** hours
- KCMGs served **16,663** people at **735** events
- We donated **4,477** pounds of produce in 2024, plus **165** plant starts

We received generous donations from 81 Extension Master Gardeners and Foundation members totaling **\$15,389** to support the King County Extension Master Gardener Program!

The total amount of all donations received through our 2024 spring and fall campaigns is **\$34,182**, which closely matches our 2024 goal for development.

Thank you to all our donors for your investment in the future of the program.

## Master Gardener Class of 2024 Celebrates Graduation at In-Person Ceremony

By Sarah Moore, WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program Coordinator



On January 11, the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program hosted an in-person graduation for the 2024 class of new Extension Master Gardeners at Bellevue Botanical Garden's Aaron Hall. The event featured a commencement speech and a "career fair" for future volunteer opportunities, all on the same morning that the class of 2025 began their learning journey!

[Read More About the Graduation](#)



### Growing Groceries Corner: Vermicomposting

By Extension Master Gardener  
Carol Johnson

Do you know what red wigglers are? Are you curious to learn more about the benefits of at home vermicomposting? Have you ever wondered about building a worm bin?

### Quick Links

[MGFKC](#)

[King County MG](#)

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

### Record Impacts

[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Volunteer hours must be entered monthly!

Vermicomposting is a great way to convert your kitchen food waste into nutrient-rich compost with an added benefit of reducing your carbon footprint. To read more about how to start this practice in your own home, click the button below!

[Learn More About Vermicomposting](#)

## Staying Smart

[PNW Garden Savvy](#)

[Education Events for the Public and Master Gardeners](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)

## Seeking Candidates for the Master Gardener Foundation Board of Directors

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

The Master Gardener Foundation of King County is seeking qualified members to run for election to its Board of Directors for the 2025-28 term. We are especially interested in candidates with experience in nonprofit fundraising, finance, and administration.

The Foundation is a separate, nonprofit entity whose mission is raising funds to support the activities of the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program. While portions of the Program's funding come from the US Department of Agriculture, Washington State University, and King County, the Foundation funds more than half of the Program's annual budget, including the cost of materials and supplies for plant clinics, demonstration gardens, and educational offerings. We could not continue many of our current Program activities without the Foundation's ongoing financial support.

Directors are elected for three-year terms, with the 2025-28 term commencing in June 2025. The Board of Directors meets via Zoom the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., and each director also leads or serves on one or more committees that meet periodically. The typical time commitment for a director ranges from 5-15 hours per month, depending upon activities and the time of year. Hours volunteered for the Foundation are also counted as program support hours for the Master Gardener Program.

### Candidate applications are due March 1

Foundation members will receive an email on Tuesday, February 4 with a link to the candidate application and more detailed information about the Director role. Interested Extension Master Gardeners may also email [president@mgfkc.org](mailto:president@mgfkc.org) for the link.

Candidate interviews will be conducted during the month of March, with qualified candidates appearing on a ballot emailed to Foundation members on April 15. Member voting will close on May 15 and election results will be announced on June 1. Newly elected directors will begin their terms at the Foundation Board meeting on June 12. Please reach out to Joan Baldwin with any questions at [president@mgfkc.org](mailto:president@mgfkc.org). We look forward to your interest and participation!

## Building Community Through Gardens and Gardening: New Pollinator Garden at Animal Acres



By Extension Master Gardener Susan Melgaard

WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners, the Rotary Club of Lake Forest Park, and the Shorecrest High School Interact Club combined forces in 2024 to create a new pollinator garden at the Pfingst Animal Acres Park. The space is now home to more than 100 perennial plants that support native insect pollinators & birds.

[Read More About the Garden](#)

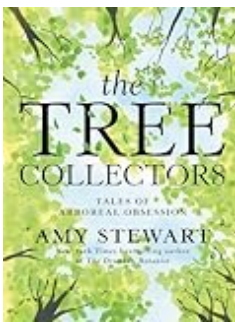
## Pruning Your Japanese Maples

By Extension Master Gardener Bruce Bennett

As you walk the streets of your neighborhood for a bit of exercise or to walk the dog, you will undoubtedly see one or two Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum* or *Acer japonicum*) in front yards. Whether they are full-size or dwarfs, pruning these plants is a reasonably easy task. February is the perfect month to prune, especially for trunk and branch structure.



[Read More About Pruning Japanese Maples](#)



### Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: "The Tree Collectors"

This month's book selection is a collection of many fascinating stories that aim to inspire readers to "plant a tree.

Or two. Or maybe a dozen."

Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature at the University of Washington's Elisabeth C. Miller Library, reviews "The Tree Collectors: Tales of Arboreal Obsession" just in time for us to begin dreaming of spring and all the planting it will bring.

[Read the Review](#)



[Ways to Donate to MGFKC](#)



[Program Priorities](#)



## A Journey of Growth and Giving at Soos Creek Demonstration Garden

By Extension Master Gardener Marie Kurka-Brown

If you are looking for a rewarding opportunity that feeds your inner activism, the Soos Creek Demonstration Garden in Auburn is for you.

You'll gain new knowledge about no-till gardening and crop rotation while making incredible gardening friends. In 2023, we grew, harvested, and donated over 3,000 pounds of fresh organic fruits and vegetables—an impressive feat!

[Read More About Soos Creek](#)

### Of Interest to You

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening.

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)

Find KCMG clinic and garden locations.

[MGFKC Map](#)

Was this newsletter forwarded to you? Sign up to receive your own monthly copy.

[Email Sign Up](#)

### Helpful Links

Learn more about the Program and how to become an EMG, plus find many other resources. For EMG-only content, log into the "KCMGs Only" area.

[Extension Website](#)

Discover how contributions help the Foundation operate gardens, clinics, and low-cost classes. For EMG-only content, log into the "Members" area.

[Foundation Website](#)

# Continuing Education Opportunities

## What Counts as CE?

Continuing Education classes 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!

Check out additional educational offerings on the [MGFKC Education page](#). Find more approved Continuing Education offerings on the [Master Gardeners Only](#) page of the Program website.

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## Growing Groceries Workshops

Growing Groceries classes take place on select Wednesdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and to register.

### Early Starts, Early Harvests

Presented by EMG Anne Neilson  
Wednesday, February 5 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

### Essential Culinary Combinations

Presented by EMGs Gia Parsons and Wendy Jordan  
Wednesday, February 19 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

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## PNW Garden Savvy (formerly BDG Workshops)

PNW Garden Savvy classes take place on select Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Visit the [PNW Garden Savvy](#) page for more information and to register.

### Balcony to Backyard: Climate Adapted Gardening in the PNW

Presented by Del Brummet, Head Gardener, Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden  
Saturday, February 8 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

### Wildlife Friendly Gardening for Natural Pest Control

Presented by Laura Matter, Natural Yard Care Program Director, Tilth Alliance  
Saturday, February 22 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

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## Bellevue Botanical Garden

### Lichen Walk

Presented by Dr. Katherine Glew

Friday, February 7 at 10 a.m. | In-Person at Bellevue Botanical Garden

Have you always wondered what lichens are and why they are found on your trees, rhododendrons and azaleas? Learn about common lichens found in an urban environment and what they tell us about air quality, forest health, and geology. [Learn more and register by clicking here.](#)

### Future Favorites: Climate Ready Plants

Presented by EMG Molly van der Burch

Thursday, February 27 at 7 p.m. | In-Person at Bellevue Botanical Garden

Do you want plants that can better handle our changing PNW climate? Discover the unique traits of natives, cultivars, and perennials. Learn about specific plants from a University of Washington study that are proven to thrive with less water. [Learn more and register by clicking here.](#)

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## King Conservation District

### Understanding Soil Health

Presenter To Be Announced

Tuesday, February 4 at 6 p.m. | Virtual

Early spring is the perfect time to test your soil for the upcoming growing season and make any amendments you need! Join this free webinar to learn about soil basics, King Conservation District's Soil Nutrient Testing Program, and ways to improve soil health. [Learn more and register by clicking here.](#)

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## WSU Master Gardener Online Workshops

These free weekly online programs presented by WSU Master Gardeners start up again this month! No need to register, just pop in.

Zoom Link:

<https://wsu.zoom.us/j/7756056320?pwd=RzVxbTI0dXpyUjJjSDdsWnJuTXdydz09>

Meeting ID: 775 605 6320

Password: 12345

For help, call Gary Fredricks at [garyf@wsu.edu](mailto:garyf@wsu.edu) or 360-577-3014 Ext. 3.

### Planning your Seed Starting Schedule

Presented by EMG Heidi Hubler

Tuesday, February 11 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

### Rose Care in the Spring

Presented by EMG Michele Thomas

Tuesday, February 18 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

## Grape Care and Pruning

Presented by EMG Sara Clark Tuesday,  
February 25 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

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## Northwest Flower & Garden Festival

The Northwest Flower & Garden Festival is a world-class five-day horticultural and gardening exhibition featuring more than 100 free seminars on many topics. Dozens of these seminars have already been approved for Master Gardener continuing education credit. You can view the list of preapproved seminars by [clicking here](#). If you purchase your tickets before February 18, you'll get a discounted rate—buy your tickets by [clicking here](#).

## Events & Coming Attractions

**MGFKC Board Meeting** on Thursday, February 13 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. More information: [kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/board](https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/board).

Zoom Link: <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** on February 19 - 23 at the Seattle Convention Center, 705 Pike Street, Seattle, Wash. Find more information at [gardenshow.com](https://gardenshow.com).

**Save the Date: The annual WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference** dates have been announced! The 2025 theme is Cultivating Resilience and the conference will take place virtually on September 26 - 27. Learn more at [mglearns.mastergardenerfoundation.org](https://mglearns.mastergardenerfoundation.org).

### Contributing to "Master Gardener Connection"

Do you have content you'd like to submit for this newsletter? For more information about the process, or to submit items for consideration, contact "Master Gardener Connection" Editor Kayah Swanson at [kayah.swanson@mgfkc.org](mailto:kayah.swanson@mgfkc.org).

The deadline to submit is the 15th of each month.

### Master Gardeners: Don't unsubscribe from all mailings!

If you wish to unsubscribe, remember that **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, so don't unsubscribe from that! Other email lists are optional.



## Land Use Acknowledgement for the King County Master Gardener Program

We acknowledge that we are gathered on the sacred lands of the Coast Salish Peoples who have lived along the shores of the Central Salish Sea since time immemorial. We honor all First Peoples indigenous to the place we now call King County – their ancestors and descendants who have cared for these sacred lands and waters for thousands of years. We acknowledge the sovereignty of Coast Salish Peoples and honor their history, language, knowledge, cultural traditions, and longstanding stewardship of the lands on which we stand and cultivate today. We give thanks to the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, Snoqualmie, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, and Tulalip Tribes for sharing their ancestral lands and watersheds with us, and we embrace our responsibility to help protect and restore them for future generations.



[www.mgfkco.org](http://www.mgfkco.org)

*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. WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.*

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