

master gardener connection

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

November & December 2025

In This Issue:

- Celebrating dozens of award-winning volunteers
- Support Extension Master Gardeners during the fall appeal
- Cool Plants, Hot Topics a buzzing success
- Area businesses make generous program donations
- Local school garden in jeopardy after federal cuts
- Growing Groceries returning in 2026 with new approach
- PNW Garden Savvy registration opening soon
- Celebration at new demo garden draws over 2,000 attendees
- Our book of the month, continuing education events, and more!

2025 Recognition Event: We Grow More Than Gardens!



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

On Saturday, October 18, WSU Extension King County Extension Master Gardeners enjoyed a wonderful catered breakfast, followed by a recognition ceremony celebrating the contributions volunteers make as individuals and teams throughout King County.

There are many ways to recognize achievement, and we celebrated in as many of those ways as possible. We celebrated milestone anniversaries of volunteers who have been in the program for anywhere from 10 to 35 years, plus honored almost 90 nominees!

[Read More About the Event](#)

Master Gardeners: Growing Together

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

The Master Gardener Foundation of King County has launched our **2025 Master Gardeners: Growing Together Fall Appeal** to support our Extension Master Gardener Program. Our goal of \$40,000 will enable us to continue providing educational programs on topics such as supporting pollinators, adapting gardens to climate change, and using sustainable gardening practices. Whether you joined us this year for a Growing Groceries class, browsed our plant sales, or just enjoyed our Master Gardener Connection newsletters, your generous support helps us teach, grow and nourish communities across King County. Will you please consider donating in support of our 2025 Master Gardeners: Growing Together Fall Appeal to help us keep that momentum moving forward?



[Donate Now](#)

[Read More About the Appeal](#)

Cool Plants, Hot Topics creates a Buzz!

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President



“Become a Pollinator Protector” was the theme for the 2025 Cool Plants, Hot Topics event held at the Bellevue Botanical Garden on Sunday, September 14, 2025. This popular event for both WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners and the public provided a full day of plant sales, horticultural information tables, bouquet and seed sales, and timely presentations. Speakers at the event included Extension Master Gardener Molly van der Burch, Extension Master Gardener Susan Melgaard, and Daniel Mount. Extension Master Gardeners were able to earn continuing education credits for attending these talks on climate-ready plants, pollinators as unsung heroes, and native plants for Northwest gardens.

The day was capped off with the grand opening of the new Habitats at Home demonstration garden created and installed by Extension Master Gardeners. Many thanks to the Extension Master Gardeners on the planning team for their hard work: Alicia Hoar, Angeline Anderson, Brooke Addison, Demica Linsten, Evan Hundley, Gary Scheider, Leslie Ozguner, Linda Kaufman, Lynda Firey-Oldroyd, Pamela Keenan Fritz, Phil Fordyce, Uzma Siddiqi, and Joan Baldwin. And thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success!

Donations Helping our Gardens Grow

By Extension Master Gardener Marie Kurka-Brown

As a WSU Extension King County Master Gardener, I love working with like-minded suppliers where we share the same environmental stewardship values and believe in the healing power of gardens. Recently, our program has received generous donations from several area businesses. These acts of generosity toward our program each help us continue to serve our community.



[Read About the Donations](#)

Local school garden in jeopardy following federal cuts



Candida Goza, the SNAP-Ed Extension Coordinator with Washington State University Extension, recently spoke with the Renton Reporter about how federal cuts are threatening the existence of a local school garden. The piece provides a good look into the great work done by our friends at the WSU Extension to educate and feed students throughout our community, and the rapidly

approaching deadline for the program unless a financial intervention occurs or donations are made.

[Read the Article](#)

Growing Groceries Taking New Approach in 2026

By Extension Master Gardener Sharon O'Grady

Growing Groceries will be returning in 2026 as Growing Groceries - The Basics and Beyond. The "Basics" series will be offered as a digital box set of six previously recorded sessions that can be watched at your convenience while waiting for the soil to warm. Four new classes, developed for the more seasoned gardener, will be offered on Zoom as the "Beyond the Basics" series. Since seed catalogs arrive early in the new year, the January class will feature Extension Master Gardener Brandon Bray who will do a deep dive into seed starting. Look for registration to go live in late November in time for holiday gift giving.

Quick Links

[Become a Master Gardener](#)
[MGF Washington State](#)
[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Upcoming Events

[PNW Garden Savvy](#)
[Growing Groceries](#)
[Education Events for the Public and Master Gardeners](#)

2026 PNW Garden Savvy Series One Classes Coming Soon!



By Extension Master Gardener Janile Martin

Need a gift for a favorite gardener who seems to have everything? You can soon purchase a subscription for the 2026 PNW Garden Savvy Series One classes, just in time for the holiday season! These classes are perfect for helping gardeners to plan and get ready for the 2026 gardening season.

Christina Pfeiffer kicks off the 2026 classes on January 10, presenting "PNW Month-by-Month Tips for Cultivating a More Resilient

Garden." Christina will share the proper timing for key garden tasks to create a more sustainable and healthy garden throughout the year.

All PNW Garden Savvy classes qualify for WSU Extension King County Master Gardener continuing education credit. They will be recorded and remain available to registrants throughout the year.

Look for registration to go live in November, giving you plenty of time for holiday gift giving!

Festival at New Demonstration Garden Draws 2000+ Attendees

Story and photos courtesy of Mukai Farm & Garden



The annual Japan Festival at Mukai Farm & Garden drew its largest crowd ever! Thank you to those who joined us to celebrate - from the fun of community Obon dancing to the sweet sounds of koto (Koto Na Wa) and bamboo flute (Kodo Araki). Kids lit up the Children's Village with origami, kendama, and other hands-on fun, while crowds cheered on Rain City Sumo, taiko drummers (Okinawa Kenjinkai), and closing act ElephantSkinMud. With the JDM car show, garden strolls, photo opps, and laughter around every corner, the day was alive with energy, culture, and community spirit—all made possible by amazing volunteers.

Note: The new Vashon Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden at Mukai Farm & Garden is officially open as of this year. In July, we published a story about the new demonstration garden, which you can read below.

[Read the July 2025 Article](#)

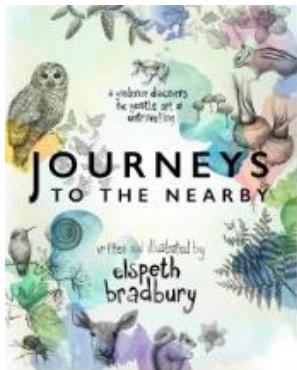
REMINDER: Submit Foundation Reimbursement Requests



Extension Master Gardeners: please submit your requests for reimbursement of 2025 expenses as soon as possible. A link to the Master Gardener Foundation of King County 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, 560 Naches Ave, Suite 130, Renton, WA 98057.

All reimbursement requests must be submitted in the year incurred. If you have any questions, contact treasurer@mgfkc.org.



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: Journeys to the Nearby

At home, “stuck like a schlump on this recliner,” Elisabeth Bradbury read travel books and yearned for the adventures she wasn’t having. Then she

“hatched a plan” to make small journeys to her back yard, writing about them in the spirit of those travel books.

Two- or three-page entries about those mini trips make up Journeys to the Nearby. Bradbury uses a variety of approaches one might find in travel journals, as she explores her yard. She has fun as she goes.

[Read the Review](#)

Helpful Links

Browse our gardening tip sheets.

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)

Some tip sheets are available in six languages.

[Translated Tip Sheets](#)

Find our clinic and garden locations

[Program Map](#)

Continuing Education Opportunities

Find more gardening classes!

Visit our [Education](#) page to find more horticulture and home gardening classes available to the public from our Growing Groceries and PNW Garden Savvy series.

Need Master Gardener CE?

Extension Master Gardeners can visit our [Master Gardeners Only](#) page for a full list of approved content eligible for credit toward annual continuing education requirements.

Here's a selection of free (continuing education credit approved!) opportunities coming up in November.

Sustainable Gardening: A Better Way to Beautiful

Presented by Peggy Campbell, Cascade Water Alliance
November 4 at 7 p.m. | Virtual
[Learn more and register here.](#)

Forests in Flux: Understanding Tree Health, Decline, and Resilience in Northwest Oregon

Presented by OSU Extension Master Gardener Program
November 4 at 7 p.m. | Virtual
[Learn more and register here.](#)

Benefits and Beauty: Landscaping with Native Plants

Presented by King Conservation District
November 5 at 6 p.m. | Virtual
[Learn more and register here.](#)

Winter Gardening

Presented by Marianne Binetti, Cascade Water Alliance
November 11 at 7 p.m. | Virtual
[Learn more and register here.](#)

Urban Landscaping with Native Plants

Presented by King Conservation District
November 13 at 6 p.m. | In Person at Flying Lion Brewery
[Learn more and register here.](#)

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.

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.

Was this newsletter forwarded to you?

Sign up to receive your own monthly copy!

[Email Sign Up](#)

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.mgfkc.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.

Follow us on social media!



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!