



MASTER GARDENER connection

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

MARCH 2023

Our 50th Anniversary at the 2023 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival

...by Gary Scheider, Master Gardener

This year's Northwest Flower & Garden Festival (NWFGF) was a very big opportunity to celebrate the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. WSU Master Gardeners were certainly hard to miss, as the Program was a Festival sponsor. WSU Master Gardeners hosted two, very busy booths and several of the Festival's seminars featured Master Gardener speakers. Our usual King County Master Gardener (KCMG) booth was visited by over 520 clients. Visitors to the booth asked plant questions, sought information about our education programming, and learned how to become a Master Gardener. A hearty "Thank you!" to the 45 King County Master Gardener volunteers who supported the KCMG booth.

This year the Festival also featured a large Washington State booth to celebrate the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program's 50th Anniversary. Nearly 80 volunteers, some from King County, were joined by dozens of Master Gardeners from other counties' Master Gardener Programs in a beautiful, super-sized booth. This booth featured our history, the Program's mission and what we do for our communities. Information about the WSU Endowed Faculty Chair was shared (more information to come), as well as the unique programming and events many counties offer. This booth hosted nearly 2,000 visitors who learned more about our story.

Thank you to the dozens of Master Gardeners who helped make these booths and this 50th anniversary event a success! Special thanks go to our planning team consisting of Master Gardeners Kirby Cartwright, Patricia Tuor, Caroline Gray and Amelia Ross-Gilson. We also want to acknowledge both Bellevue Nursery and the Bellevue Home Depot for providing the plant material that added so much to the attractiveness of our booths.



WSU Extension Master Gardeners work in the Washington State booth at NWFGF
Photo credit: MG Gary Scheider



MG Jo Alidina, MG Jason Howell and MG David Oldham pose in the King County booth at NWFGF
Photo credit: MG Gary Scheider



A Note from the Program Coordinator: *Nine Program Priorities*

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

Happy March from the Program Office. As the Demonstration Gardens and Ask-a-Master-Gardener Clinics prepare for the busy months ahead, I am inspired by the amazing work that WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners do. As you demonstrate best gardening practices and help home gardeners gain horticultural skills, you are also helping King County and our state as they grapple with issues that concern us all.

In 2019, Program Coordinators statewide identified the top challenge facing the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program – our ability to tell the “story” of what we do and how we provide value.

They honed a list of issues facing Washington State down to nine issues that could be addressed, in some capacity, by helping home gardeners improve their horticultural skills. Out of those efforts came the nine Program Priorities, which represent areas in which we already make a significant impact. These issues are Clean Water, Water Conservation, Wildfire Preparedness, Local Food, Pollinators, Climate Change, Plant Biodiversity, Soil Health, and Nearby Nature.

[Read more](#)



Seeking New Members for MGFKC Board

...by Jim Olson, Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

A changing of the guard is coming soon for the Master Gardener Foundation of King County Board of Directors.

The term of service for four current board members ends with the May 11th board meeting. As such, we're looking for the next group of Master Gardeners who will help guide the Foundation in supporting the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program. Without a full and involved board, the reach of the Program will be very limited. The more board members there are, the more we can see that our clinics, demonstration gardens, educational outreach and volunteer recognition events are top-notch. The board does this by raising funds and wisely spending them to support those activities.

Board members may serve up to two, three-year terms. The board meets the second Thursday of each month, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All meetings are on Zoom. If you are interested in serving on the board, or have questions about it, contact Jim Olson, the current president at president@mgfkc.org. You can also put forward the name of another Master Gardener you believe would be a good candidate.

Nominations are due by April 1, 2023 and must include a statement of the skills and experience the candidate brings to the board. The slate of nominees will be sent by email to all Master Gardeners on April 15th for consideration. Votes are due by May 15th and winning candidates will be notified on May 16th. The candidates who are elected will begin their terms at the board meeting on June 8th.



Growing Groceries: *Educating King County Communities about Gardening*

...by Joan Baldwin, Master Gardener

The Growing Groceries 2023 Series is off to a very strong start. Our first two sessions *Global Vegetables in a Diasporic Garden* and *Backyard Fruit Trees* were enthusiastically attended and received many accolades from participants. One of the major goals of Growing Groceries is to reach out beyond the Master Gardener community to include gardeners with varied levels of veggie growing experience and a variety of cultural food tastes. With that in mind, we partner with the King Conservation District, The Seattle P-Patch Community Gardening Program, the Marymoor Community Garden and others to promote our classes. You can also help promote this valuable program by sharing with friends,

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

family, and garden networks. Details and registration information can be found at: <https://mgfkc.org/education/growinggroceries>

The Growing Groceries Team has volunteer opportunities for Master Gardeners. Our team works to support the Growing Groceries program by identifying subject matter, enlisting appropriate presenters, marketing the program and performing a myriad of back-office tasks. We would welcome your participation. Please contact me at growinggroceries.king@gmail.com to join our group of dedicated Master Gardener volunteers.

[BDG Workshops](#)

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

[Growing Groceries](#)

Appreciation from the Dean

The following is an excerpt from "From the Dean's Desk" by Wendy Powers, Cashup Davis Family Endowed Dean, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

"Saturday, I head out to the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival in Seattle to spend a few hours with some of our amazing master gardener volunteers. While not a gardener, I sincerely appreciate everything our volunteers do to promote environmental horticulture across the state. The volunteers are immensely talented, busy people who carve out time to serve as agents of WSU through the Master Gardener Program. Winter seems to be kept at bay these days, making travel a bit more predictable. I hope everyone was able to get out and spend time with their valentine this week!"



[Donate to MGFKC](#)



[MG Program Priorities](#)



Find out about the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King



Discover our public gardening education events, fundraising

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.

activities and recognitions, and how you can help the King County Extension Master Gardeners.

<https://www.mgfk.org/>

For **MG-only** information about Foundation policies and more clinic resources, log into the "Member Area."



Join Tilth Alliance as a Garden Education Specialist. The Garden Education Specialist position will teach hands-on and

online classes on topics such as urban agriculture and food preservation; support garden maintenance at our learning garden in North Seattle; and provide technical assistance to other community gardens throughout King County.

The role requires a passion for building a healthy and equitable local food system, as well as a background in growing food and sharing that information with others.

Download the job posting here: [Learn more and apply](#) or visit <https://tilthalliance.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>.

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](#)



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection

Spirited Stone: Lessons from Kubota's Garden

Lose yourself in the pages of *Spirited Stone: Lessons from Kubota's Garden* and then get lost on the pathways of the garden itself. This collection of photography, short stories, poems and essays celebrates the legacy of Fujitaro Kubota, creator of the Kubota Garden located in Seattle's Rainier Beach neighborhood.

Spirited Stone: Lessons from Kubota's Garden was published March 2020 by Chin Music Press. Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature, reviewed the book.

[Read more](#)

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://www.mgfk.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.

March 1: Soil Quality and Fertility for the Home Gardener with Dr. Douglas Collins, WSU Instructor in Ecological Soil Management.

March 15: Starting Your Garden from Seeds, presented by Master Gardeners Suzi O'Byrne and Margaret MacLeod.

March 29: Early Spring Vegetables: Peas, Hardy Greens, Carrots, Radishes and More, presented by Master Gardener Anne Neilson.

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops

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

March 4: Pruning Fruit Trees, presented by Master Gardener Brandon Bray.

March 18: Bling on the Wing: Creating Habitat for Hummingbirds, presented by Greg Butler, Owner, Design of the Times.

March 25: Growing Tomatoes in the Pacific Northwest, presented by Master Gardener Marcia Dillon.

Master Gardener Foundation of Spokane County

March 18 – May 31: 13th Annual Cabin Fever Virtual Gardening Symposium. Class information and tickets are available [here](#). This online event will begin on Saturday, March, 18, with a live presentation by Benjamin Vogt. All presentations will be available to view on your own schedule from March 20 to May 31 and will cover many topics essential to developing sustainable gardens. Registrants to this event will be emailed a link to access the presentations.

Jefferson County Master Gardener Foundation

25th Anniversary Yard & Garden Virtual Lecture Series, February 11 – March

25, 2023. Find more information and registration [here](#).

March 4: Panel discussion: Growing, Harvesting, and Arranging Amazing Local Flowers, presented by Candice Gohn, Master Gardener; Lexi Koch, farmer and flower arranger; and Sharrai Morgan-Faulkner AIFD, PFCI.

March 11: Plants for a Better Planet with Great Plant Picks presented by Del Brummet, head gardener and plant propagation manager at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle.

Island County Master Gardener Foundation

March 3 – 4: The Whidbey Gardening Workshop is two days of focused classes, themed sessions, hands-on learning, and a gardening marketplace. This event is both on-site and live-streamed. Information and registration [here](#).

All Extension Virtual Conference

Both presentations listed below are open to Master Gardener volunteers and are presented on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/92288251514?pwd=R25KQzZCdWt2bzdVTENDWjJlUWDE4Zz09>
Meeting ID: 922 8825 1514
Passcode: 161875

March 1, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Using Data to Make Informed Decisions, presented by Stephanie Kane, Assistant Director, Institutional Research.

March 2, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.: Building Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Resiliency through WSU Extension presented by Luz Maria Gordillo, Assistant Dean for DEI.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

BBGS members receive a 30% discount on most webinars, lectures and classes. More information at <https://bellevuebotanical.org/learn/?all-events>.

March 9: The Cutting Garden, a virtual presentation by garden designer, writer and speaker Sue Goetz.

March 17: Lichen Walk at Bellevue Botanical Garden, a guided walk by Dr. Katherine Glew.

March 25: Mason Bees, an interactive, in-person talk by Dave Hunter, Owner and Founder of Crown Bees.

April 1: Clematis: Queen of the Climbers, an in-person class taught by Master Gardener Laura Watson in partnership with the Master Gardeners of King County. *(There is a discounted price of \$10.50 for King County Master Gardener members on this class.)*

Washington Native Plant Society

March 2: Birds and Berries, this hybrid lecture presented by field biologist Peter Zika, examines what species of birds consume the fruits and are necessary to spread the seeds of some of our native species like madrone and

bitter cherry. For in-person attendees, there will be a plant identification workshop prior to the lecture. More information including time, location, registration, Covid updates and a Zoom link can be found at <https://www.wnps.org/cps-events/calendar/1809>. Admission is free.

More Online Learning Opportunities...

For a month-by-month listing of more online Continuing Education classes, check out these [public events](#) from Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County. (Note that some events listed on this site are in-person in Cowlitz County.)

WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference

September 27 – 30, 2023 at the Marriott Tacoma Downtown in Tacoma, Washington. Registration opens May 1st. Find more information at <https://mglearns.mastergardenerfoundation.org/>.



Events and Coming Attractions

MGFKC Board Meeting on Thursday, March 9, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. online Zoom meeting. Information and details at <http://www.mgfk.org/events/mgfk-meetings>.

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

Tilth Alliance March Edible Plant Sale. Saturday, March 18, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands. More information [here](#).

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@mgfk.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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