

# master gardener connection

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

November & December 2024

## King County Extension Master Gardeners Nominated for State Awards

Three of King County's Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) have been nominated for statewide WSU Extension Master Gardener Program awards. We are proud to have this distinguished group of EMGs representing King County at the state level!



**Gary Scheider**  
Nominee for 2024 WSU  
Extension Master  
Gardener of the Year



**Marty Byrne**  
Nominee for the 2024  
WSU Extension Master  
Gardener Media Award



**Penny Kriese**  
Nominee for the 2024 Ed  
LaCrosse Distinguished  
Service Award

[Read More About the Awards & Nominees](#)

## October Master Gardener Recognition Event

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



Bellevue Botanical Garden's Aaron Hall was bustling on the morning of October 19 as over 100 King County Extension Master Gardeners gathered to recognize the work of outstanding volunteers in the program, with the theme of "Lettuce Celebrate." The event featured awards for milestone anniversaries, behind the scenes work, leadership through service, public engagement, and more—including seven awards from the White House!

Program for October 2024 recognition event, "Lettuce Celebrate!"

[Read More About the Event](#)

## Holiday Gift Giving: 2025 Class Registration Coming Soon!

By Extension Master Gardener Trish Bloor

Keep an eye on your email: 2025 Growing Groceries and Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops registration links will be sent your way in November or early December—just in time for holiday gift giving! Subscriptions to these popular educational series make great gifts or stocking stuffers and will keep on giving throughout 2025.



[Read More About the 2025 Course Lineup](#)



## Growing Groceries Corner: 2024 Finale

By Extension Master Gardener Sharon O'Grady

The Growing Groceries team did an incredible amount of work in 2024. Read more below about their sizable community impact and the Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) who made it possible.

[Growing Groceries 2024 Wrap-Up](#)

### 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](#)



## Successful pop-up clinic at Tilth's Farm Fest

By Extension Master Gardener Gia Parsons

On a beautiful day in September, our Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee had a fantastic opportunity to connect with the community at Rainier Beach Farm Fest. It was a day full of international food, vendors, and local dance troupe performances celebrating local culture and sustainable living.

Advertisement for this year's Farm Fest Photo courtesy of EMG Gia Parsons

[Read About the Farm Fest Pop-Up](#)

## Building Community Through Gardens and Gardening: The Giving Garden

By Extension Master Gardener Intern Linda Firey-Oldroyd

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, Anne Miller, a current Extension Master Gardener Intern, was inspired to create a community garden to bring people together safely and to give to people in need of food. That effort has grown over the years to create The Giving Garden, which generates several large boxes of produce a week in the summer to help address food insecurity Seattle.



The entrance to The Giving Garden  
Photo credit: KCMG Intern Anne Miller

[Read More About The Giving Garden](#)

## Building Community Fall Appeal Starting in November

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

We will start our “Building Community” fall fundraising appeal for the Master Gardener Foundation of King County this month. The Building Community appeal accounts for a significant portion of yearly fundraising for the Foundation. This year will feature our 2024 accomplishments, budget, Program and Foundation goals, and 2025 operating plans. If you have any questions, or want further information, contact Joan Baldwin at [President@mgfkc.org](mailto:President@mgfkc.org).



[Ways to donate to MGFKC](#)

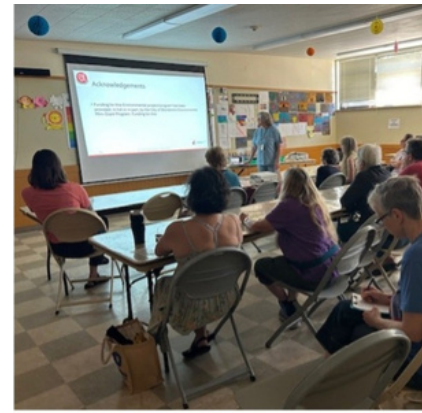


[MG Program Priorities](#)

## Master Gardeners Provided Grant-Funded Classes on Climate Change Gardening

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

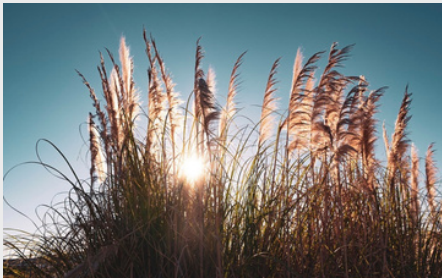
In April 2024, the Foundation was awarded a City of Shoreline Environmental Mini-Grant in the amount of \$5000 to provide a climate change gardening workshop series for residents of Shoreline, Washington. EMGs provided six Saturday morning classes in July and August.



EMG Karen Adams presenting to Shoreline residents  
Photo credit: EMG Joan Baldwin

[Read More About the Classes](#)

## Helpful Fall Gardening Advice



### The Grasses of Autumn

By Extension Master Gardener  
Bruce Bennett

A peak joy in the months of September - November is the sight of ripening grasses in various landscapes. From tall and wispy varieties that sway beautifully in the breeze to low-growing grasses which are great for ground covers and turf replacements, your fall and winter landscape can also look more appealing with the added texture and color that ornamental grasses provide.

[Read the Article](#)



### Burlap: A Gardener's Friend

By Extension Master Gardener  
Bruce Caredio

Mulch is a generic term for a material which covers the soil to prevent weed growth, conserve moisture, moderate temperature, and prevent compaction and erosion. Burlap bags are an eco-friendly and inexpensive option for mulch.

Each bag will cover about six square feet of ground. If taken care of and dried out after the winter, the bags are likely to last two seasons.

[Read the Article](#)

## Remembering James Daly, Co-Founder of Soos Creek Botanical Garden

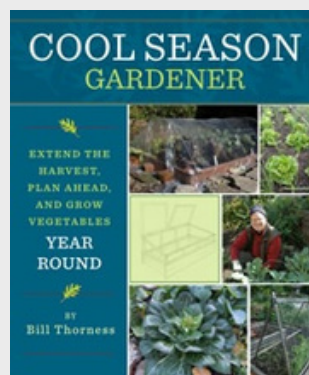
By Extension Master Gardener Nancy Purcell

We are sad to share that Jim Daly, co-founder of Soos Creek Botanical Garden, died unexpectedly in August. Jim and his partner Maurice Skagin developed the Soos Creek Botanical Garden over fifty years. Jim's leadership and skills are already missed. He was a friend to the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program and helped us thrive as we learned to manage a large garden. We wish to offer our condolences to Maurice and to express our gratitude for the benefits Jim brought to South King County.

[Read More About Jim Daly's Legacy](#)

### Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: Cool Season Gardener

This month's book selection presents a creative approach to planting and harvesting calendars in the maritime Pacific Northwest by changing some basic concepts (spoiler alert: the author argues we should be dividing the year into more than four seasons!). The heart of this book focuses on the practices of vegetable growing in the cooler months. "Cool Season Gardener" by Bill Thorness was published in February 2013 by Mountaineers Books. Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature, reviewed the book.



[Read the Review](#)

## New "Master Gardener Connection" Editor

This monthly newsletter is now being handled by a new editor. Kayah Swanson, Extension Master Gardener Intern, has taken the reins as of this November/December 2024 issue. You can reach her at [kayah.swanson@mgfkc.org](mailto:kayah.swanson@mgfkc.org).

We wish to express our profound gratitude to former editor Heather Fuller for her incredible work managing this publication over the last three years. Thank you for all you have done to keep EMGs in King County informed with inspiring content, timely updates, and relevant information, Heather!

Visit the Extension website to learn more about the Program and how to become an EMG, plus find a wealth of other resources. For EMG-only content, log into the "KCMGs, Only" area.

[Extension Website](#)

Visit the Foundation website to discover how contributions help us operate public gardens, diagnostic clinics, and low-cost classes. For EMG-only content, log into the "Members" area.

[Foundation Website](#)



BELLEVUE BOTANICAL  
GARDEN

## Become a Docent at Bellevue Botanical Garden

By Extension Master Gardener Gary Scheider

This is one of those opportunities that does not count toward Master Gardener annual certification but is nonetheless gratifying.

Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG) will host their annual training for new docents from February 3 - April 7, 2025. The once-a-week classes are about four hours long. The course covers many topics, including deep dives into the BBG plant collections, history, and art; the role of the 10 BBG partner groups; and botany updates relevant to the garden. Plant expertise specific to BBG is not necessary, but a willingness to learn and build your knowledge is required, as is a love of sharing the beauty of the Garden with others. Presently, eight King County Extension Master Gardeners are among the 35 docents who provide both scheduled and unscheduled docent tours at the Garden. If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, contact [docentprogram@bellevuebotanical.org](mailto:docentprogram@bellevuebotanical.org) for more information.

## Of Interest to You

### Tip Sheets

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening.

Garden Tip Sheets

### Where am I?

Find KCMG clinic and garden locations.

MGFKC Map

### Newsletter Sign Up

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

Email Sign Up



## Year End MGFKC Reimbursement Requests

Please submit your request for reimbursement of expenses as soon as possible. A link to the MGFKC Reimbursement Form can be found at [mgfkc.org](http://mgfkc.org) under "Foundation Member Resources" in the password protected member area. Reimbursement requests can be emailed to [treasurer@mgfkc.org](mailto: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.

## 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.



## Washington Native Plant Society

### **Garry Oak Restoration In the Salish Sea Region**

Thursday, November 7 at 7 PM | In-Person and Virtual

In this program, Robert Steelquist will present an overview of Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) natural history, its historic and present ranges, ecological benefits and current status. The presentation also covers Indigenous ecological management as well as progress made in oak restoration.

[Register here!](#)

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## King Conservation District

### **Benefits and Beauty of Landscaping with Native Plants**

Tuesday, November 12 at 6 p.m. | Virtual

In this talk, Susan Calhoun will cover the countless benefits that native plants provide for landscape aesthetics, wildlife habitat, water quality and more.

[Register here!](#)

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## Growing Groceries Workshops

Growing Groceries Workshops classes are finished for the season. Keep an eye out for registration links for the 2025 season which will be in your inbox in November or early December! Visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration for future classes.

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## Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops

BDG Workshops classes are finished for the season. Keep an eye out for registration links for the 2025 season which will be in your inbox in November or early December! Visit the [Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops](#) page for information and registration for future classes.

## Events & Coming Attractions

**MGFKC Board Meeting** on Thursday, November 14 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. online Zoom meeting. Information and details at <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

**King Conservation District's Native Bareroot Plant Sale** begins on Monday, November 18 at 8 a.m. [Learn more by clicking 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](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.mgfkc.org](http://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.*

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