



# master gardener connection

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

April 2025

**April is National Volunteer Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the contributions of volunteers.**

Extension Master Gardeners, thank you for everything you do to empower and sustain diverse communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education. Your volunteer work in our community is appreciated!

## Foundation Director Elections Begin April 15



By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

Starting April 15, Master Gardener Foundation of King County members can cast votes to fill open seats on the Foundation's Board of Directors for the 2025-28 term.

Active Extension Master Gardeners who enrolled in 2025 Foundation membership last fall, along with new interns who joined the Foundation last month, will receive a ballot via email on April 15. If you are an Extension Master Gardener who has not yet joined the Foundation but would like to vote in the election, email [membership@mgfkf.org](mailto:membership@mgfkf.org) to request a membership form no later than April 11. Membership is only open to Extension Master Gardeners and is free of charge.

The Foundation's mission is raising funds to support the activities of the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program. We have a strong slate of

Director candidates, including three incumbents running for a second term and several new candidates. Your thoughtful vote will help to shape the future of our Foundation and is critical to the success of our Board of Directors!

## Building Community Through Gardens & Gardening: Community-Building Hero Matt Jennings

By Extension Master Gardener Lynda Firey-Oldroyd

Building community through gardening can take many forms, and WSU King County Extension Master Gardener Matt Jennings is one of the most versatile out there in that regard. He is a true community-building hero both as part of and outside of the Extension Master Gardener program. I hope that by sharing some of his initiatives with you, you'll be inspired to think about building community through gardening in your own new ways.



[Read More About Matt's Work](#)

## Growing Food and Making Space for Pollinators and Community in Lake Forest Park's Pflugst Animal Acres Park



By Extension Master Gardener Darcy Korhonen

Animal Acres is a WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden located at the north end of the Pflugst Animal Acres Park in Lake Forest Park. When it was established in 2007, the footprint included just four in-ground vegetable beds and a bean teepee. Since then, the garden has expanded nearly nonstop and grown into a true intergenerational community collaboration that promotes sustainable gardening practices and produces harvests for local food banks and pantries.

[Read More About Animal Acres](#)

*Note: this piece is part of a new series called Demo Garden Snapshot, highlighting the amazing work that happens at our demonstration gardens across King County. If you'd like to highlight your demonstration garden, reach out to Master Gardener Connection Editor Kayah Swanson at [kayah.swanson@mgfkc.org](mailto:kayah.swanson@mgfkc.org).*

## Welcome Interns, and Good Luck!

By Extension Master Gardener Marie Kurka-Brown

Dear Interns,

Welcome to the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener community! We are so glad you're here.

When I first learned about the 40-hour volunteer requirement I remember thinking, “How can I possibly manage that? I already have a full life!” Everything changed the moment I drove through that beautiful metal vine gate at Soos Creek Botanical Garden.



As you begin your own demonstration garden experience, I encourage you to look for the places where you can make a difference. Seek out the joy that comes from contributing to something larger than yourself.

[Read More Intern Inspiration](#)



## **Growing Groceries Corner: Adding Asparagus to Your Garden**

By Extension Master Gardener  
Carol Johnson

Have you ever considered growing a vegetable that rewards with a delicious early spring harvest for years, has elegant feathery foliage growing up to six feet tall in summer and fall, and attracts pollinators? Asparagus could be your next consideration.

Asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*) is a hardy perennial vegetable. A member of the lily family, the fern-like foliage turns from green to gold in the fall. Known for its tender spears and rich flavor, it is a rewarding crop for home gardeners.

[Learn More About Growing Asparagus](#)

### **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](#)



## **PNW Garden Savvy Series Two Kicks Off April 12**

By Extension Master Gardener Janile Martin

We are moving into prime gardening time. Have you noticed that many yards, pea patches, and porch containers are perking up? It's time to find your garden gloves and learn a few new garden tips, and we've got a perfect way for you to do that: Series Two of PNW Garden Savvy starts April 12. Join us on select Saturday



mornings for these online gardening classes. Bring a cup of coffee, tea, or other favorite Saturday morning treat. You can even join in your pajamas!

[Read More About the Series](#)

## Upcoming Extension Master Gardener Plant Sales

### MASTER GARDENER



### PLANT SALE

By Extension Master Gardener Gary Scheider

As the weather gets warmer, plant sales are popping up as quickly as our new seedlings! Be sure to check out all the spring plant sales happening with the help of Extension Master Gardeners. There is probably one happening near you.

These sales feature perennials, herbs, veggies, grasses, and other unique plants grown and tended by Extension Master Gardeners. Some upcoming sales are shared in more detail in newsletter stories below. Plus, don't miss these two sales:

- The **Neely-Soames Homestead Demonstration Garden Plant Sale** will take place at the garden, located at 5311 S 237th Place in Kent, on Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- The **Tilth Alliance Annual Plant Sale** will take place at Meridian Playground, 4800 Meridian Avenue N in Seattle on Saturday, May 10 and Sunday, May 11 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Our Extension Master Gardeners will host a sale booth conveniently located just outside the sale entry, where you can visit while waiting to enter the Tilth sale!

## Bellevue Demonstration Garden Annual Spring Plant Sale

By Extension Master Gardener Erica Halford

The Bellevue Demonstration Garden Annual Spring Plant Sale is fast approaching, and we hope you are planning to join us! The sale will feature warm season vegetable and ornamental starts, a garden flea market, a large supply of burlap sacks, a WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Plant Clinic, and more.



[Read More About the BDG Plant Sale](#)

## Celebrate Native Plant Appreciation Month with Washington Native Plant Society Sale & Events



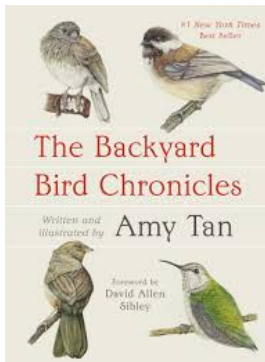


By Jan Bird, Washington Native Plant Society

The Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society has planned a full month of activities for April, which is Native Plant Appreciation Month! At the Spring Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 26 at Bellevue Botanical Garden, we will have more than 2,000 plants from our nursery stock, local native plant nurseries, and wholesalers. We are also hosting

four educational webinars throughout the month.

[Read More About Native Plant Appreciation Events](#)



## Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: "The Backyard Bird Chronicles"

This month's book is a winsome account of six years in Amy Tan's obsession (her word) with

the birds behind her house. Tan says her obsession with birds has some similarities to her work as a writer: She regards herself as an observer who asks questions about the lives, deaths, and surroundings of what she sees. Add that to her success in attracting dozens of birds to her backyard, and this book emerges in full feather.

**On a Related Note:** Don't miss the Elisabeth C. Miller Library's annual Garden Lovers Book Sale on April 5! More details are in the Events & Coming Attractions section below.

[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

### Need Master Gardener CE?

Extension Master Gardeners can visit our [Master Gardeners Only](#) page for a full list of

the public from our Growing Groceries and PNW Garden Savvy series.

approved content eligible for credit toward annual Continuing Education requirements.

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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.

#### **Beacon Food Forest: Seattle's Communal, Edible Landscape**

Presented by Beacon Food Forest Educator Elise Evans  
Wednesday, April 2 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

#### **Grow the 'Other' Edible Nightshades: Peppers, Tomatillos, Eggplant**

Presented by EMG Jean Jones  
Wednesday, April 16 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

#### **Roots and Rare Fruits**

Presented by Margaret MacLeod and EMG Brandon Bray  
Wednesday, April 30 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.

#### **Gardening with Children**

Presented by EMG and Living Lab Instructor Pauline O'Rourke  
Saturday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

#### **Plant It Where the Sun Don't Shine**

Presented by Garden Designer and Educator Greg Butler  
Saturday, April 26 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

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### **Pavilion Program Events at Soos Creek**

These programs will be offered throughout the spring and summer in 2025 at the Soos Creek Botanical Garden & Heritage Center in Auburn on third Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Some of the programs will be eligible for continuing education credits, including this offering in April. The programs are free of charge, but donations are gladly accepted, and sack lunches are welcome!

#### **How to Have Healthy Soil and Keep it Healthy**

Presented by EMG Suzanne Baily-Yin  
Wednesday, April 16 at 12:30 p.m. | In-Person  
Learn why your plants, lawn, or veggie garden may not be growing well. Think and learn about what soil changes you could make, including soil testing and no-till gardening.

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### **Bellevue Botanical Garden**

## The Resilient Yard

Presented by EMG Mike Peronto

Saturday, April 5 at 12:30 p.m. | In-Person

Using a typical suburban yard as a reference, this presentation highlights the actions a homeowner can take to mitigate climate change and protect their yard. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## Events & Coming Attractions

**MGFKC Board Meeting** on Thursday, April 10 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. More information: [kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/board](http://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

The annual **Garden Lovers' Book Sale** will take place on Saturday, April 5 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the University of Washington's Elisabeth C. Miller Library. Learn more about the event, plus the opportunity to buy tickets for a pre-sale the night before, 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.

**Was this newsletter forwarded to you?**  
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[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.mgfk.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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