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The Foundation Connection

A monthly e-newsletter from the Master Gardener Foundation of King County

July 2015 Issue



Welcome to The Foundation Connection, your new monthly newsletter!

This e-newsletter for WSU Extension Master Gardeners of King County will arrive in your inbox each month. *The Foundation Connection* is meant to complement *THE DIRT*, *News You Can Use* and other communications you currently receive related to the Master Gardener Program.

The Master Gardener Foundation of King County is happy to provide this e-newsletter to keep you connected with other Master Gardeners and to let you know what's important, especially in King County. Every issue will include a profile of one of your fellow King County Master Gardeners, news and helpful announcements.

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The Foundation supports and promotes the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King County -- without the Foundation there is no Program. The Foundation values your participation in and contribution to its activities, such as the annual plant sale, the NW Flower & Garden Show, committee work and more.

We welcome your input and feedback!

Michelle Roedell

On behalf of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County
Communications Team
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Master Gardener of the Month ***Dr. Horst Momber: Plant Sale Wizard***

Horst Momber has worked on the Master Gardener of King County's Annual Spring Plant Sale for the last thirteen years and taken charge of it for the past 7. Don't miss Horst's Q & A about the plant sale at the end of this article.

If you have ever spoken with the delightful Horst Momber you may have detected a pleasant accent. Horst was born in Germany, but at age 13 moved with his parents, four brothers and a sister to Minnesota.



Horst came to Seattle in 1967 for a Fellowship at the University of Washington. "One year in Seattle and I had no desire to go back to Minnesota," he reveals.

[Read more](#)

Mastering the Master Gardener Foundation of King County's Facebook Page

...by Tina Gruendike, MGFKC Facebook manager

If you are not a Facebook user, fear not! You



don't even need a Facebook account to use and love MGFKC's Facebook page. The page is ever-evolving. It is designed as a forum to connect with other Master Gardeners, to post your questions and comments and to check upcoming events.



Social media is being used by 1.39 billion monthly active users on the average according to Forbes (April 14, 2015) and those users range from teenagers to professionals and senior citizens. Each is finding the ease and speed of connecting with friends or associates convenient from a desktop or especially a smart phone.

The Master Gardener Foundation of King County (MGFKC) started a non-profit business account a few years ago at www.facebook.com and it is growing in popularity with Master Gardeners and others. Daily interaction makes the difference in this online community.



[Read more](#)

A Brief History of the Master Gardener Program

"It started here!"

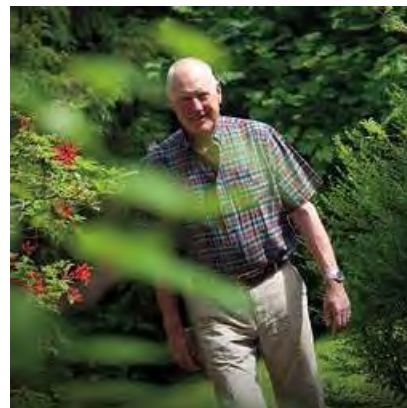
The idea for the Master Gardener Program began in 1971.

When Washington State University Extension assigned horticulture faculty to county offices as part of their education programs, the emphasis was on crop production. It was not until rapid urban growth and a burgeoning interest in gardening that WSU Extension began to develop programs emphasizing urban horticulture.

Dave Gibby and Bill Scheer, Area Extension Agents, had separate assignments in King and Pierce Counties. Dave focused on urban horticulture and Bill on the commercial side. What they found was that public demand for information about plant problems was so intense that it made educational programming for either of them virtually impossible.



Dave Gibby, former WSU Area Extension Agent and co-founder of the Master Gardener Program
Photo by Nicholas Draney



[Read more](#)

Bill Scheer, retired WSU Area
Extension Agent and co-founder
of the Master Gardener Program
Photo by Zach Mazur

What's Happening? *News and Updates*

- [The George Pinyuh Memorial Cactus Bed](#) at the Bellevue Demo Gardens will be dedicated on **Saturday, July 18**, at 2:00PM.
- [Explore, Learn and Lead, 2015 WSU Advanced Ed Conference](#), Sept. 17-19, 2015. Registration now open.
- Read about the **King County A'Key Grant Program** application opportunities in the [May 2015 Newsletter](#) from the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State.
- **Applications for the 2016 Master Gardener training class** will be open online in August 2015! Incorporating online modules and classroom instruction, the Master Gardener training class in King County will be a Saturday class in 2016.
[Find out more about becoming a Master Gardener in King County.](#)
- **Congratulations WSU Master Gardeners!** On April 24, 2015, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed May 10 - 16, 2015, as Washington State University Master Gardener Volunteer Week. The Governor commended WSU Master Gardeners for their 42 years of service, and he asked all citizens to join him in this special observance.



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