



The Foundation Connection

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

November -December 2020 Issue



Thank You
KING COUNTY
**Master Gardener
Volunteers**



2020 Master Gardener Annual Meeting and Recognition Event

King County Master Gardeners celebrated their considerable successes in 2020 in an online meeting Saturday, October 24. Program Coordinator Mary Watts and Foundation Board President Jim Olson recognized the Outstanding Master Gardeners of 2020 and the Foundation awards.

[Read more](#)

**Message From the
Program
Coordinator: Get
Ready for Recertification**



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...by Mary Watts, King County Master Gardener Program Coordinator

It has been an unusual year, to say the least. Many of you have found ways to stay engaged in the Program during this pandemic. Many of you have taken advantage of the waived service hours requirement and have sat this one out. We are hoping to have a better year in 2021 but as you know, there are many uncertainties. It is my hope that you will choose to recertify for the 2021 year, and we can ride this out together.

You will soon be receiving an email with a link to apply to be a WSU Master Gardener again next year. The deadline is December 31, 2020. Due to a change in WSU's reporting deadline from end of Q1 (March 2021) to January 15th, we will not have the luxury of being flexible with those who miss the deadline for any component of recertification.

Recertification consists of several components

- *Complete and enter into the WSU Volunteer database all continuing education (CE) and service hours requirements for the year. Go here to enter your hours online: volunteers.cahnrs.wsu.edu*
 - CE requirements in 2020 are the same as they have always been, 10 hours for Veterans, 5 hours for Emeritus. If you still need to get in some CE, here is a link to numerous previously recorded online approved CE options: www.mgfk.org/education/online-continuing-education.
 - Service hours were waived for 2020 due to the pandemic but many of you still found ways to serve the Program mission. Please enter all service hours you completed even though they were not required. (WSU Extension needs this information for insurance and reporting purposes.)
 - Interns have been granted a second year to complete their training requirements.
- *Re-apply.* You will receive an email in the first half of November with a link to re-apply online. The hard-and-fast deadline for application completion is December 31, 2020.
 - *Pest Management Recommendations Agreement.* The online application form will include a link to the Pest Management

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Staying Smart

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Volunteer



If you have **WordPress** or **Constant Contact** expertise and would like to help KCMGs, contact Penny at [pckriese at gmail](mailto:pckriese@gmail.com).

Of Interest to You

Recommendations Agreement. You will need to read the agreement and check a box indicating you've read, understand, and agree to abide by the agreement.

- *New this year: background check.* WSU is requiring background checks for all volunteers every two years. This will be part of the recertification process for 2021. By time you read this newsletter you likely will have already received an email from me with a more detailed explanation, instructions, and an FAQ. If not, it will be coming soon.

Please continue to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe so we can gather again to enjoy each other's company in the future.

News from the Board: Meet Board Member Amy Lee



Amy Lee enjoys plants of all kinds, indoor and outdoor. She brings her love of plants and gardening to her Master Gardener activities in her clinic and garden, and to the Foundation Board.

[Read more](#)



Why are you a Master Gardener?

...by Penny Kriese,
Master Gardener

MG Penny Kriese poses some thoughtful questions as we get ready to recertify as Master Gardeners for 2021.

[Read more](#)

Ask A Master Gardener Any Day: The 2020 Email Clinic

Washington State University Extension

*Ask a
Master Gardener!*

Supported by the Master Gardener Foundation of King County

Tip Sheets for KC
Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening
[Garden Tips](#)

WHERE am I?
Find King County Master Gardener clinics and garden locations using the [MGFKC map](#).

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Make a Difference!
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Despite the pandemic, or maybe because of it, the Ask A Master Gardener email clinic roared back to life in May 2020, after a hiatus of several months. Co-Leader Penny Kriese estimates that the email clinic will have received more than 1100 questions by the end of the year.

[Read more](#)

Foodies in the Garden

State Fair-Worthy?

Master Gardener Gia Parsons grew this beauty in the Marymoor Community Garden. According to the Territorial Seed



Lycopersicon esculentum
'Ananas Noire'

catalog, this heirloom tomato "...skin has shades of green, purple, orange, and yellow...The lip-smacking flavor starts out sweet and ends with the perfect amount of tang. What's more, the sprawling indeterminate plant yields a tremendous amount of 1 ½ pound fruits." Gia said they were indeed delicious; she "started with 1 pound fruit but they kept getting bigger." Note that this one tops out at 2.6 pounds!

2021 Northwest Flower and Garden Festival Canceled



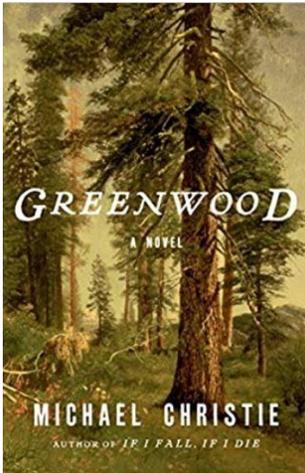
The 2021 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival has been canceled. Show manager Jeff Swenson cites the difficulty of holding a large public event in light of the current pandemic situation. For full details, visit the Northwest Flower & Garden Festival [website](#).

Image: Northwest Flower & Garden Festival



News Shoots: Short Subjects

Job Opportunity: We have been made aware of a full-time position and a temporary position at a local nonprofit for a groundskeeper with strong plant identification skills and a background in IPM and horticulture. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested, please contact the Editor at communicate@mgfkc.org.



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection

Greenwood: A Novel

"And now for something completely different..." Occasionally, this library selection feature departs from non-fiction horticulture topics. This month's book is a work of historical fiction set in the forests of Vancouver Island,

British Columbia.

[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!

Online Learning Opportunities

Master Gardeners can earn Continuing Education credit from a wide selection of online classes, webinars, and online workshops. Check out the new section on the MGF Education page:

<http://www.mgfkc.org/education/online-continuing-education>

November Growing Groceries Classes.

All Growing Groceries classes will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Registration is required for each class. Classes will be offered on the Zoom online platform; registrants will receive instructions the day of the class.

November 18: Soil and Compost

[Register for the November 18 Class](#)

Visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration.

Check these websites for updates on in-person classes. Most classes are canceled through May.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

November 18, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Gardening with an English Accent with Master Gardener Alison Johnson. Free for BBGS members, \$15 for nonmembers. Visit the BBG website for details and registration

<https://bellevuebotanical.org/classes/event/gardening-with-an-english/accent/>

Bellevue Demo Garden Talks

Talks and workshops will resume in 2021.

<http://www.mgfk.org/education>

Savvy Gardener Classes (Saving Water Partnership)

NtS: check before end of month

<https://www.savingwater.org/lawn-garden/gardening-classes/>

Future File

September 12 to 17, 2021:

[International Master Gardener Conference](#)

Norfolk, Virginia.

Fall 2021:

The WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference for 2020 is rescheduled to Fall 2021.

[WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference](#),

Events, Coming Attractions

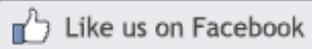
MGF Board Meeting, Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. online meeting. Information and details at <http://www.mgfk.org/events/mgfk-meetings>



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@mgfkc.org All published photos have the photographer's permission or are sourced from free-to-use sites.

Stay Connected:



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