

## 2022 Master Gardeners of King County Recognition Celebration

...by Sarah Moore, Program Coordinator and Jim Olson, Foundation Board President



Attendees at the Recognition Celebration  
Photo Credit: MG Amy Lee

On Saturday, October 22, approximately 85 WSU Extension Master Gardeners gathered at the Aaron Education Center in the Bellevue Botanical Garden to enjoy a delicious catered lunch and to celebrate the award recipients for Length of Service Awards, Outstanding Master Gardener, the President's Award and the Foundation Award.

Program Coordinator Sarah Moore and Foundation Board President Jim Olson emceed the gathering and presented the awards. Jim Olson gave a summary of the Foundation's finances and fundraising sources. At the end of the award ceremony, an hour of continuing education was delivered by Eve Rickenbaker, a PhD student in the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences. Eve spoke about the origins of public gardens and horticultural organizations in America and how they can become more racially inclusive of the communities they serve.

### **Length of Service Awards**

The full list of Length of Service Awards honorees can be found [here](#).

### **Awards for 2022 Outstanding Master Gardeners**

These awards honor Master Gardeners "who exhibited leadership and/or organizational skills, dedication and commitment to the Program and its mission, demonstrated creativity or innovation, introduction of new methods or technologies, contribution to a project with a goal related to the Master Gardener mission, demonstrated ability to work with others, reliability in committee/group tasks and assignments, or number of hours of service."

**Master Gardeners Lory Armitage, Trish Bloor, Bobbi Braymen, Emilie Castle, Harriet Dempsey, Carol Druse, Kelly Morris, Sharon Peach, Siobhan Persson, Linda Peterson, Jim Olson and Bruce Williams**

These WSU Master Gardeners help host our 30 Bellevue Demonstration Garden (BDG) Workshops on Zoom. They are all proficient in basic Zoom skills and are authentic, spontaneous, joyful and personable people when hosting. These BDG Workshop hosts are one of the major voices for our organization and are heard online by hundreds of people.



Master Gardeners Jim Olson, Siobhan Persson, Kelly Morris, Trish Bloor, Linda Peterson and Emilie Castle accept the Outstanding Master Gardener Award for BDG Workshop Zoom hosts.  
Photo credit: MG Amy Lee

***Master Gardener Janile Martin***

Janile has assisted in planning the BDG Workshops for the past two years. She helps with scheduling, Zoom meetings and various kinds of follow up. She helped find new speakers for the Workshops. She also trained Zoom hosts for the Workshops. She frequently hosts Workshops herself and helps inexperienced volunteers to become comfortable with the role of host.

***Master Gardener Daryl Schlessler***

Daryl is an active contributor to both the Clinic Leadership Team and Program Leadership Team. He was a Department Head at past Spring Plant Sales and has roles on other key committees. He handled many complex administrative tasks during the period we were without a Program Coordinator and has also played a major role in onboarding our new Program Coordinator at a time when other major projects such as Intern Training and recertification were already in motion.

***Master Gardener Gabi Hong***

Gabi is both the Garden Leader for the Neely-Soames Historic Homestead Demonstration Garden and Chair of the Garden Leadership Team. At Neely-Soames, Gabi revitalized the garden with a focus on both community involvement and the volunteer experience. She took over this garden while she was still an intern and has implemented new processes, strategies and goals. She encourages and builds rapport with the volunteers, visitors and strategic partners.

***Master Gardener Jean Wang***

Jean is a “Master Teacher” at the Bellevue Demonstration Garden. She co-managed the Asian Bed for many years. When two new Master Gardeners took over the bed, Jean mentored them and encouraged them to try new Asian vegetables. She is at the garden every week working with interns. Jean is an ambassador for the WSU Master Gardener Program in the cordial way she greets and interacts with all garden visitors.

***Master Gardeners Joan Baldwin and Trish Bloor***

Working with Zoom and Vimeo, Joan and Trish established a new way to offer recorded BDG Workshop sessions. This innovation allows attendees the choice to see the classes at their own convenience. Trish and Joan also organized the Workshops into series which could be purchased at a 25% discount. Having the Workshops as series made it easier for attendees to register. Both of these changes to the BDG Workshops were a large part of why registrations wildly exceeded our expectations this year.

***Master Gardener Foundation of King County Board Awards***

These awards, established by the Board in 2015, honor individuals or teams who have gone above and beyond their responsibilities as Master Gardener leaders to either aid the Foundation in its fundraising mission or expand the educational impact of Program activities in King County.

### *The President's Award*

#### **Master Gardener Cleo Raulerson**

Cleo is recognized for her contribution of supporting the Speakers' Bureau. She helped revive the Bureau after a period of transition in leadership left the Bureau in disarray. Cleo now effectively runs the Speakers' Bureau on her own. She maintains the roster of speakers and topics and answers requests from a variety of groups. Her efforts have increased the number of speaking engagements we fulfill; she scheduled almost 20 sessions this year. She has also raised approximately \$1,300 in honoraria during 2022 for the Master Gardener Foundation of King County.

### *The Foundation Award*

#### **The Cool Plants, Hot Topics! Event Team: Master Gardeners Bruce Caredio, Suzi O'Byrne, Linda Peterson and Bruce Williams**

When an open date for an event at Bellevue Botanical Garden had nothing scheduled at the June Board meeting, newly elected board member Linda, volunteered to organize the **Cool Plants, Hot Topics!** event. She was joined by Bruce C., Suzi and Bruce W. and together these four board members organized and ran a successful fundraising event. Bruce W. tracked down vendors, Suzi gathered plants to sell and Bruce C. was the invisible, invaluable team member filling in all of the gaps.