

MASTER GARDENER connection

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

JANUARY 2023



We're ALL in: *The 2023 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival*

...by Sarah Moore, WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program Coordinator

The WSU Extension Master Gardener State Program's 50th anniversary celebration will kick off at the 2023 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival at the Seattle Convention Center, February 15 – 19. Two (!!) Master Gardener booths will be at the show – our usual King County Master Gardener (KCMG) Program booth, plus a larger and prominently located State Master Gardener Program Booth – to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

You can expect to see the usual public outreach, educational programming announcements and Ask-a-Master-Gardener clinic at the KCMG booth and we'll staff our booth as usual with King County Master Gardener volunteers. The State booth will have a somewhat different focus; this booth will tell our State Program story, share and celebrate the 50-year history of the Master Gardener Program, and our objectives and projects. The booth will feature information on the WSU Extension Master Gardener Endowed Chair and have a plant clinic presence. Volunteers at the State booth will be recruited from other County Master Gardener Programs in Washington State.

[Read more](#)



Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops for 2023

...by the Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshop Team

As we look forward to a new year of workshops, the Bellevue Demonstration Garden (BDG) Workshop team would like to begin by thanking the people who have participated in our workshops in past years. It's a pleasure to present to such an enthusiastic and appreciative audience.

This year, the BDG Workshops will focus on ornamental plants and issues such as climate change and garden regeneration. These classes will be appropriate for all levels of gardeners. We will teach gardening techniques that are successful in the Pacific Northwest, with an emphasis on current horticultural science.

Workshops will be held approximately twice a month on Zoom, January through October. The workshop platform will open at 9:15 a.m. The presentation begins at 9:30 and lasts approximately one hour. A question-and-answer period will follow. Advanced registration is required. Recordings of most workshops will be available for all registrants.

[Read more](#)



Growing Groceries: Season 5 Opens in January

...by Joan Baldwin, Master Gardener

The Growing Groceries series is one of the most visible and consequential public education initiatives offered by the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King County. This series has become a trusted resource for beginning and intermediate home gardeners wanting to learn more about growing veggies. Its fifth season will open with the first class on January 18, 2023: *Global Vegetables in a Diasporic Garden*, and will be followed by classes through June 2023, on many other food gardening topics.

This year, three of the 12 classes feature content not covered in recent seasons. *Principles of Gardening in the Pacific Northwest for the Intermediate Gardener* will be offered early in February, and in May, a new class, *Perennial Vegetables*, will be included. An updated class, *Integrated Pest Management (IPM)*, is scheduled in June. These 12 classes will be offered as a series at a discounted rate for gardeners who register for the entire season instead of individual classes. Each class lasts about 90 minutes and will be hosted on Zoom on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. Classes are recorded for those who register but miss a class or who would like to review it.

Please share this update with your friends, family and garden networks (and be sure to join us if you feel you need a refresher yourself). You'll find details and registration information at: <https://mgfkc.org/education/growinggroceries>.

A Note from the Program Coordinator

...by Sarah Moore, WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program Coordinator



Happy 2023, and my warmest thanks to all the WSU Extension Master Gardeners of King County for making 2022 a great year. I want to share some preliminary numbers with you to show how much you did in the last 12 months. These hours were compiled on December 9th so they may change a little, but I want you to see them now, to start the new year, because they are something to be proud of.

In 2022, WSU Extension Master Gardeners of King County submitted:

- **16,571 activity entries, representing 35,966.34 hours for 547 people**
- 4,367 Continuing Education entries, 6,308 hours for 466 Master Gardener (MG) Volunteers
- 1,026 MG Basic Training entries, 3,420 hours for 114 MG Trainees
- 11,178 Volunteer Service entries, 26,238 hours for 523 MG Volunteers

Seeing these numbers reinforces what I see every day – the productivity and engagement of our program. Thank you to all of you for the work you do – and for reporting it.

[Read more](#)



Remembering... Master Gardener Larry Davis

...by Bonny Nordgren, Master Gardener

Master Gardener Larry Davis passed away in 2022, leaving behind a legacy of service to the Master Gardener community and beyond. Larry completed his Master Gardener training in 1993 and joined the Auburn Clinic. After a visit to the Bellevue Demonstration Garden (BDG), he adopted it as his home away from home and made the 60-mile round trip from his home in Federal Way at least twice a week. He also worked as a member of the Master

Gardener Foundation of King County Board.

Larry took care of the fruit trees at BDG, doing pruning, harvesting, and disease and pest control. He taught pruning demonstrations of trees and berries. He oversaw planting plans at BDG, ensuring each crop had adequate space. He kept track of crop rotation and monitored the progress of the beds, giving advice to other Master Gardeners as needed. He managed the potato field, dry bean crop and squashes. He taught by demonstration through the City of Bellevue and Bellevue Community College television programming.

[Read more](#)

Foodies in the Garden

This is the latest in an occasional series of articles about what we do with the plants that we grow for food.

Medlar Fruit

...by Bruce Caredio, Master Gardener and Foundation Board Member



Rarely seen in the United States and sparsely planted in Europe, the Medlar (*Mespilus germanica*), is gaining a foothold in the New World. Although the Medlar belongs to the extensive plant family *Rosaceae*, it is a genus with only one species. Its closest relative is the Hawthorne, genus *Crataegus*. The origin of this deciduous shrub or small tree is the woodlands and mountains of southeast Europe and southwest Asia. It grows in somewhat fertile, moist, well-drained soil, in full sun or partial shade. The Medlar lends itself well to display as a specimen tree for a number of reasons. The 20-foot tall and 25-foot wide tree displays 2 inch, white flowers in spring (some with a pink blush) which are bowl-shaped and occur at the tips of branches. Medlars display yellow/brown autumn foliage and an apple-like fruit at the end of the growing season. These curiously shaped fruits are edible when picked after the first frost. However, the fruit needs to be bletted (cured), nearly to the point of rotting, before it is edible. The eating of medlar fruit is likened to eating cinnamon flavored custard with a spoon.

[Read more](#)

Photo: Medlar fruit and leaves

Photo credit: CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=379157>



Master Gardener Program 50th Anniversary

"The Master Gardener program, which began as

Quick Links



[MGFKC](#)



[King County MG](#)

a response to a need for information on gardening and pest management – essentially answering questions and providing answers – has evolved into a proactive partner with other agencies in addressing horticulture, environmental and social issues covering such topics [as] integrated pest management, natural yard care, low-impact development, rain gardens, composting and edible gardening, to name but a few. They do this through a mix of demonstration gardens, classes, lectures, workshops, demonstrations, writing and outreach activities. Many local garden writers, television and radio personalities have been Master Gardeners.

“The horticulture “Master” volunteer concept was so effective that it has spread throughout the United States, Canada, and South Korea. It has been adopted by various other disciplines of WSU Extension such as food preservation, animal husbandry and resource conservation, e.g. Master Composters, Master Food Preservers, Livestock Advisors, Master Recyclers, Beach Watchers, and Sustainable Community Stewards.”

Learn about the past, present, and future of Master Gardeners and start planning your celebration. If you do nothing else, don't miss the kickoff video celebrating our history. [50 years and counting | Master Gardener Program | Washington State University \(wsu.edu\)](#)

Source: Gibby, David; Scheer, William; Collman, Sharon; George, Pinyuh. “The Master Gardener Program – a WSU Extension success story.” <https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/who-we-are/history/history-of-the-master-gardener-program/>

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

Record Impacts

[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Volunteer hours must be entered monthly.

Staying Smart

[BDG Saturday Workshops 2022](#)

[Education Events for the Public and Master Gardeners](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)

The Little Demonstration Garden That Could

...by Marty Byrne, Master Gardener

The Animal Acres Demonstration Garden is tucked away in south Lake Forest Park's Pfingst Animal Acres. The garden is approximately 1,200 square feet, situated along a split-rail fence that borders the street. WSU Extension Master Gardeners and community volunteers plan and maintain the 10 raised beds, arbor, and containers to show how vegetables, herbs, fruit, and ornamentals can co-exist and enhance a garden space. The park features a popular walking path, so WSU Master



Gardeners get quite a few questions from residents. The WSU Master Gardeners had a presence at Lake Forest Park's Picnic in the Park (pictured), joining other city agencies and nonprofits to engage with residents.

[Read more](#)

Photo: Lake Forest Park's Picnic in the Park
Photo Credit: MG Marty Byrne



Where can anyone find out about the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King County, how to become a Master Gardener, our list of speakers or the Puget Sound Tip Sheets?

<https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/>

For **MG-only** information, log into the "KCMGs, Only" area.



Where can anyone find links to the most current newsletters, education events for the public, and the Foundation activities and recognitions?

<https://www.mgfk.org/>

For **MG-only** information about Foundation policies and more clinic resources, log into the "Member Area."



[Donate to MGFKC](#)



You can donate .5% of your purchase when you use [AmazonSmile](#).

Thank you.



The website is moving! The Master Gardener Foundation of King County (MGFKC) is moving its website into a new look and feel in 2023. Part of this process is assessing existing content,

Of Interest to You

Tip Sheets for KC

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)

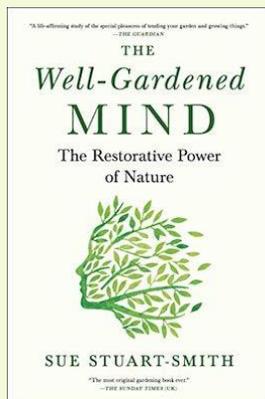
creating new content and images, and adopting our content to a new WordPress template. The initial phase should be done by the end of March. We are gathering a small team of 4 to 6 persons for this project. If you are interested and have the skills for this kind of work, please contact Penny Kriese, webmaster@mgfkc.org for more information. The team will need:

- Text editors to review existing content for reuse
- Writers to edit or create new content for this fundraising site
- Photo editors to find and identify images
- WordPress web editors with some HTML experience to help migrate our content into the new site

The Foundation website will become part of the new site being created for the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State. We will update you as we make progress.

WHERE am I?

Find King County Master Gardener clinic and garden locations using the [MGFKC map](#)



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection

The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature

Explore the therapeutic effect of gardening with author, psychiatrist and gardener, Sue Stuart-Smith. In *The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature*, Stuart-Smith writes, “A close contact with nature affects us on different levels; sometimes we are filled with it, fully present and conscious of its effects, but it also works on us slowly and subconsciously in a way that can be particularly helpful for people suffering from trauma, illness and loss.” This is a timely book for the pandemic.

The Well-Gardened Mind was published July 2020 by Simon & Schuster. Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature, reviewed the book.

[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! Education Opportunities

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

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

Growing Groceries Classes

Growing Groceries classes are Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration for all classes.

January 18: Global Vegetables in a Diasporic Garden, presented by Master Gardeners Gia Parsons and Shanelle Donaldson West.

February 1: Backyard Fruit Trees, presented by Master Gardener Brandon Bray.

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops

Workshops are online Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. For information and details, please visit the [Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops](#) page.

January 21: Creating Beautiful Landscapes for Wildlife Habitat, presented by James Gagliardi, director, Bellevue Botanical Garden.

January 28: Starting Seeds for Flowers and Vegetables, presented by Master Gardener Colleen Donahue.

February 4: Peonies in the Pacific Northwest, presented by Kit Haesloop, Former President NW Perennial Alliance.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

BBGS members receive a 30% discount on most webinars, lectures and classes. More information at <https://bellevuebotanical.org/learn/?all-events>.

January 18: Rhododendron Introductions in the Second Golden Age of Plant Hunting, a hybrid lecture presented by Steve Hootman, executive director and curator at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.

January 19: Sensibility: A Garden for the Senses, a webinar presented by Sue Goetz.

Washington Native Plant Society

January 10: Heavy Metals in Moss Guide Environmental Justice Investigation: a Seattle Study, a Zoom presentation by research ecologist, Dr. Sarah Jovan. For more information visit <https://www.wnps.org/cps-events/calendar/1745>. This program will be recorded and made available on the WNPS program recordings page: <https://www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/virtual-events>.

February 2: Our Backyard Bumbles: an Introduction to Washington's

Bumblebees, an in-person presentation by David Jennings about native bumblebees. For more information and possible changes due to COVID-19, visit <https://www.wnps.org/events/1783>. Masks are encouraged.

Northwest Horticultural Society

January 21: How Can We Grow Greener? a Zoom webinar presented by garden and landscape designer Arit Anderson. Find more information and registration [here](#).

More Online Learning Opportunities...

For a month-by-month listing of more online Continuing Education classes, check out these [public events](#) from Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County. (Note that some events listed on this site are in-person in Cowlitz County.)



Events and Coming Attractions

MGFKC Board Meeting on Thursday, January 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. online Zoom meeting. Information and details at <http://www.mgfkf.org/events/mgfkf-meetings>.

Zoom Meeting - <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

Northwest Flower & Garden Festival. February 15 – 19, 2023 at the Seattle Convention Center. Plan your visit at gardenshow.com.

King Conservation District 2023 Native Plant Sale. Online ordering begins November 15, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. Visit their [online plant store](#) for information and registration.

Ballard Sprouts Project: Reaching Out for Ways to Grow Into the Future

Sometimes the Master Gardener Foundation of King County receives requests for help from projects that align with us in many ways but are not officially part of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. This is such a program – if you are interested, please be aware that any gardening hours would not be counted as Master Gardener Volunteer Service.

The Ballard Sprouts project has been active for the last 10 years, each year providing over 20,000 vegetable starts to the Seattle Giving Garden Network. The project starts in mid-February when we plant trays of seeds in a backyard greenhouse on propagation mats: lettuce, chard, kale, collards, broccoli, and Asian greens. A team of dedicated volunteers come to the greenhouse to do all the work of planting seeds, transplanting seedlings, watering, fertilizing, generally tending the plants and then hardening them off. In April, when

temperatures are higher and the soil has warmed, the plants are donated to gardeners who will grow the food, harvest it and donate it to Seattle food banks. Last year, Seattle's Giving Gardens donated 42,000 pounds of produce to hungry people. This project started with a group of neighbors; we now have over 30 volunteers and operate as a project of Sustainable Ballard. We're funded by the Seattle Giving Garden Network.

[Read more](#)

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.

WAIT! Don't unsubscribe from all mailings if you are an active Master Gardener!

If you wish to unsubscribe, be selective and identify the email lists you wish to receive. **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. Other email lists are optional.



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.



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