

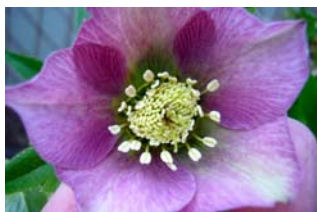
The Dirt

The Newsletter of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County



December 2012

A Note from Our President, Dave Hanower



I want to start and end with a word of thanks. First, I want to thank each of you for the time, energy and talents you contribute to the Master Gardener program, in our clinics and gardens, as diagnosticians or speakers, and as volunteers at the Plant Sale and at the NW Flower & Garden Show. Your efforts and dedication are an inspiration and are greatly appreciated!

As most of you know, the Master Gardener Foundation of King County provides the financial support to

allow the Master Gardener program to function in King County. We are about to begin our year-end donation appeal, which is a crucial part of our annual fundraising. Please consider joining me in making a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation so that we can continue to support all of the great work that you do!

I also wanted to give you a brief update on what's happening at the Foundation. Your Board of Directors has been working on a number of key governance initiatives. The document that defines the Foundation's relationship with Washington State University Extension and the Master Gardener program is called a Memorandum of Agreement, and we have just signed a

new agreement that will apply for the next five years. In addition, the Board periodically reviews and updates the Foundation's By-Laws, which are essentially the "ground rules" for how we operate. We anticipate that the Board may approve a revised set of By-Laws at our December 13 meeting. We will notify you when the revised By-Laws are approved, and they will take effect 30 days after that notice. Kudos to our Governance Committee and its chair, Board member Carol Arnold, for spearheading these efforts. I want to end by thanking Board members Anne Ellett and Cecilia McGowan for spearheading the effort to get our Newsletter back in circulation.

Special points of interest:

- VISIT [GARDEN D'LIGHTS AT THE BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN](#)
- CHECK OUT THE GREEN WALL ACROSS FROM THE BELLEVUE DEMO GARDEN
- TAKE A WALK THROUGH THE WITT WINTER GARDEN IN THE WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM

Inside this issue:

BOOKS!	2
RECURRING COLUMNS	2
BEATING WINTER	3
FOUNDATION MEETINGS	3
CONSERVATION DISTRICT PLANT SALES	3
WINTER RECIPE	3
MAKE A FORSYTHE POT	4

Get Ready for the 2013 Plant Sale!

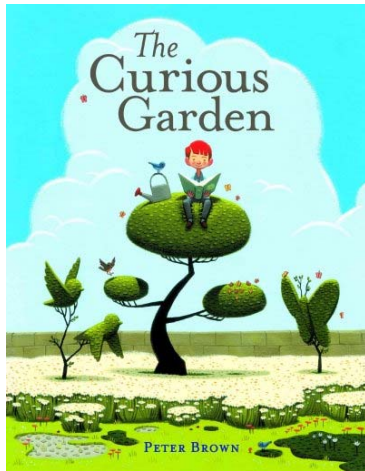
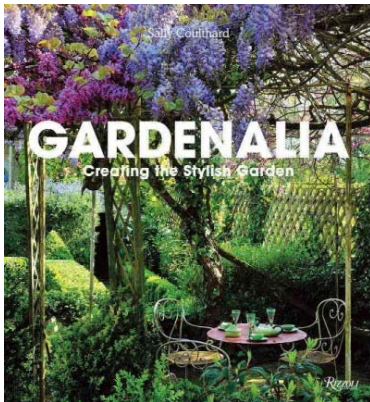
Pre-sale: Friday, May 3

Sale: Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5

Held once again at the Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st Street
Seattle (near University Village)

Visit the MGFKC website [here](#) for more information.
To volunteer please contact Horst Momber at momberh@mac.com

The Dirt



LIAM DISCOVERS
A HIDDEN
GARDEN AND
WITH CAREFUL
TENDING
SPREADS COLOR
THROUGHOUT
THE GRAY CITY

Books for Gift Giving, Keeping or Finding at the Library

Garden Source: Inspirational Design Ideas for Gardens and Landscapes by Andrea Jones
Rizzoli, 2012

Gardenalia: Creating the Stylish Garden by Sally Coulthard
Rizzoli, 2012

1001 Gardens You Must See Before You Die edited by Rae Spencer-Jones
Barrons, 2007

The Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food by Janisse Ray
Chelsea Green, 2012

In Pursuit of Garlic: An Intimate Look at the Divinely Odorous Bulb by Liz Primeau
Greystone Books, 2012

Vertical Vegetables and Fruit: Creative Gardening Techniques for Growing Up in Small Spaces by Rhonda Massingham Hart
Storey, 2011

Kiss My Aster: A Graphic Guide to Creating a Fantastic Yard Totally Tailored to You by Amanda Thomsen
Storey, 2013

Tomorrow's Garden: Design and Inspiration for a New Age of Sustainable Gardening by Stephen Orr
Rodale, 2011

For Children

The Curious Garden, written and illustrated by Peter Brown
Little, Brown, 2009

Plant a Little Seed, written and illustrated by Bonnie Christensen
Roaring Brook, 2012

Lily's Victory Garden, written by Helen L. Wilbur, illustrated by Robert Gantt Steele
Sleeping Bear Press, 2010

The Further Adventures of Peter Rabbit, written by Emma Thompson, illustrated by Eleanor Taylor
Frederick Warne, 2012

Our School Garden, written by Rick Swann, illustrated by Christy Hale
Readers to Eaters, 2012 (local author and publisher!)

Ready, Set, Grow! Quick and Easy Gardening Projects
Dorling Kindersley, 2010

Making Butterfly Gardens, written by Dana Meachen Rau, illustrated by Kathleen Petelinsek
Cherry Lane, 2013

10 Hungry Rabbits: Counting and Color Concepts, written and illustrated by Anita Lobel
Knopf, 2012

We Want Your Ideas for Recurring Columns! Send us an email: newsletter@mgfkc.org

What's Happening in Your Patch?

Here's where you tell us what's going on in your clinic and demo garden.

Trips You've Taken/Gardens You Have Visited

Please include some photos!

Garden Visits

Provide reasons why and address.

Catalogs

What are your favorite/least favorite catalogs and why?

News

What do you want other MG's to know about? Events, classes, happenings?

The Dirt

Beating Winters by Jane Garrison, formerly of the Issaquah Press

One good thing about getting older is that winters go by very quickly. Of course spring, summer, and fall do as well, but that doesn't negate the fact that winters are now truly bearable – even enjoyable.

For gardeners this realization is a real boon. We don't have to stare out the window at the dripping rain and soggy soil for very long each year. We are always just a blink away from getting out there and rooting around in all that good dirt.

Many plants seem to like the discomfort that winter has to offer. We know the bulbs like it – the narcissus, crocus, hya-

cinths, and tulips. Not bothered by anything, snoozing from summer through most of winter, they peek out of the ground when they choose to.

Some plants go beyond understanding. Winter Heath starts blooming before Christmas knowing full well that ice and snow are on the way. The same goes for Sarcococca and Winter Sun Mahonia. Sedums are boldly sticking their heads up out of the ground daring winter to take its best shot. And we know if it does the sedum will win. Primroses are amazing and look out of place with their bright colors in amongst the grayed earth tones of winter. Although I appreciate the en-

thusiasm and bravery of the winter bloomers, I don't feel I depend on them to get me through the winter anymore. The low sun angles on the deciduous branches create a hopeful look and a very artful one as well. Even the dripping rain and the dramatic gray skies seem exciting. It's now fun to look outside without feeling obligated to be out there doing something. The pruning of fruit trees and roses is coming soon enough.

For now I'm going to enjoy this beautiful winter weather and the surprises it brings.



'ALTHOUGH I APPRECIATE THE ENTHUSIASM AND BRAVERY OF THE WINTER BLOOMERS, I DON'T FEEL I DEPEND ON THEM TO GET ME THROUGH THE WINTER ANYMORE.'

Future Foundation Board Meetings

All Master Gardener's are welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings.

Thursday, December 13, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, CUH

Tentative January Meeting:
Sunday, January 20, 9 am to 3 pm

This meeting will be a combined January/February board meeting as well as the yearly long range planning meeting. Location TBD.

Thursday, March 14, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, CUH

Thursday, April 11, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, CUH

Always check to ensure the meeting time/place have not changed.

King and Snohomish Conservation Districts Plant Sales

These sales provide the perfect opportunity to purchase bare root native plants at an excellent price. For the first time you can order and pay online. For full information visit their websites:

[King County](#)

[Snohomish County](#)

Friend Us!

Facebook.com/Master Gardener Foundation of King County

Visit Us!

MGFKC Website: <http://www.mgfk.org>

The Dirt

Questions?

Comments?

Submissions?

Send us an e-mail!

newsletter@mgfkc.org

[Master Gardener Foundation of King County](#)

Center for Urban Horticulture
University of Washington
Box 354115
Seattle WA 98195
Phone: 206.543.0221

Newsletter Co-editors
Anne Ellett
Cecilia McGowan

Making a Forsythe Pot

I have to admit I had never heard of a Forsythe pot until I read about it in a gardening magazine. Even though I know it's not always the best way to grow a new plant I (lazily) stick cuttings in a glass of water and hope for the best. Now I have a new way of starting plants courtesy of Deborah L. Brown, Extension Horticulturalist at the University of Minnesota. She provides step-by-step instructions on creating your own [Forsythe Pot](#).



Winter Recipe

We love Brussels sprouts but are always looking for a different way to prepare them. This recipe might please a few of your family members who think they don't like them!

[Sautéed Brussels Sprouts with Pecans](#)