

# The Dirt

The Newsletter of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County



October 2013

## A Note from Our President, Dave Hanower



**WE NEED YOUR HELP** to keep our Plant Sale a vibrant event and a defining part of the Master Gardener program in King County. Our annual Plant Sale is the single largest source of income for our Foundation, but, more importantly, it brings together all of our Master Gardeners to work on a single event. Many of our Master Gardeners tell us how important the Plant Sale is to their overall experience in the program, especially in terms of creating camaraderie and *esprit de corps*.

**Help us** repeat the success of the Plant Sale next year. This success depends on having a strong and committed steering committee. Horst Momber has done a terrific job for the past six years of leading a great team as the chair of the Plant Sale, but he has

announced that he wants to step down from that role after the 2014 Plant Sale.

**Help us** identify individuals to volunteer in leadership roles in the Plant Sale.

■ We need someone to serve as deputy chair for the 2014 Plant Sale and gain the experience to take over as chair after 2014. Horst has graciously offered to stay on the Plant Sale committee after 2014 to continue to assist his successor.

■ As in most years, there is some turnover on the Plant Sale committee and several leadership roles are currently unfilled. You can find a list of the committee positions and descriptions on the MGFKC website at <http://www.mgfk.org/events/plant-sale/plant-sale-positions>

We need your help to recruit new leaders for these important roles.

**Help us** continue to offer this rewarding opportunity for Master Gardeners to bond with the greater

community of gardeners in the Seattle area. Join us in sharing our knowledge and skills helping customers identify, select, plant and care for plants in their gardens.

**WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.** If you are interested in serving on the Plant Sale Committee, want to find out what's involved, or know of someone who might be recruited, I urge you to contact Horst ([momberh@mac.com](mailto:momberh@mac.com)) or me ([president@mgfk.org](mailto:president@mgfk.org)).

**Time is of the essence.** The Plant Sale Committee begins its work in the late Fall. We would love to have these important positions filled as soon as possible. **Join us now.**

**Help us** keep the Plant Sale strong, thriving (and improving). PLEASE contact Horst or me if you have an interest in working in one of these important roles. I am sure that we'll be able to find one to fit your interests. THANK YOU.

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## Storage Option for Clinics by Peggy Smith

I am a member of the Ballard Farmer's Market Clinic and like some of the other clinics, we have had a long standing problem with storage of our equipment. Each week entailed someone going to the house where the equipment was stored, loading it into a car, driving to the market to unload the equipment and then doing the reverse at the end of the day. Since not all clinic members had cars suitable for this, it left the job to a few members.

Our Clinic was lucky in finding a storage building only one block from the clinic site at the Farmer's Market. The Foundation has agreed to a request to pay for this storage. This has made the job of the volunteers manning the Ballard Farmer's Market Clinic much easier and they are grateful to the Foundation for the funding.

The Foundation is willing to offer this solution to any other clinic that has a storage problem that could be solved in a similar manner. The Foundation's purpose is to support Master Gardeners in their educational efforts and this is a great example of that support.

## New WSU Gardening Website

If you were unable to hear the interim WSU MG Program Leader Nicole Martini speak at the recognition dinner October 16, she alerted the membership to the new and improved WSU gardening website:

<http://gardening.wsu.edu/>



## Future Foundation Meetings

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

**Thursday, November 14, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, CUH**

**Thursday, December 12, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, CUH**

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

## Bellevue Demonstration Garden to Honor George Pinyuh

Several years ago George Pinyuh, former King and Pierce County extension agent and long time master gardener, planted some cactus at the Bellevue Demonstration Garden. He maintained this bed in spite of its poor location. Because of George's interest and love of cactus, the Master Gardeners at the Demonstration Garden want to establish a 'special' memorial cactus bed to honor him and continue his legacy.

Larry Davis has been instrumental in obtaining donations for this project and will be helpful as the design proceeds. The gardeners hope to transplant George's cactus into the new bed in the spring of 2014. Stay tuned for any updates as it gets closer to planting.

If anyone is interested in making donations to this memorial for George please send it to: King County Master Gardener Foundation and designate it to the "George Pinyuh Cactus Garden".

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## Excellent Donation News!

The Foundation is very pleased to announce the receipt of a generous stock donation from Katherine and James Nelson in recognition Marty Wingate's work. We are very grateful to Katherine and James for their generosity.

The Foundation will use the money realized from this gift to continue to support the Master Gardener Program in its work of providing home gardening advice that is research-based and focused on environmentally friendly gardening practices.

A donation of appreciated stock provides a benefit not only to the Foundation but also to the donor. By donating appreciated stock, the donor gets the benefit of a tax savings and a charitable deduction. This tax planning tool is derived from the general rule that the deduction for a donation of property to charity is equal to the fair market value of the donated property.

If stock is appreciated in value, the difference between the cost to purchase the stock and price realized at the sale is normally subject to capital gains tax. But if the stock is donated to a charitable organization, like the Foundation, the stock is valued at the current fair market value and the donor does not have a gain and so does not have to pay tax on the increased value of the stock. This is only applicable to stock held for at least one year. Additionally, if the donor itemizes deductions, the fair market value of the stock donation may be deductible.

Before making a donation of this kind, the potential donor should consult their tax advisor on how this action would affect their personal tax situation.



'I WOULD RATHER  
SIT ON A  
PUMPKIN, AND  
HAVE IT ALL TO  
MYSELF, THAN BE  
CROWDED ON A  
VELVET CUSHION.'  
HENRY DAVID  
THOREAU



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### Bellevue Demo Garden Members on Tour

On July 30<sup>th</sup> a group from the Bellevue Demonstration Garden visited our Master Gardener partners at the Pierce County Demonstration Garden in Puyallup for a tour. The tour commenced in the grasses garden, continued through children's, vegetable, and shade garden among others. Directly following the demo garden tour, the group continued on to visit Fred Wemer's Island garden for a guided tour of his hillside garden, the neighbors' castle and mill pond.



Ralph Federspiel,  
Sue Hall, and  
Lory Armitage

### Bellevue Demo Garden Harvest Fair

The Bellevue Demonstration Garden celebrated its annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 14. The festival, attended by more than 175 guests, provided an opportunity for the Master Gardeners to showcase a rich variety of edibles and ornamentals in numerous demonstration beds.

The event began with a memorial service for George Pinyuh honoring his contribution to the Master Gardener program and specifically to the Bellevue Demo Garden. Space was dedicated for a new memorial cactus garden currently being built to remember George.

The festival then kicked off with a variety of activities. Produce grown in the demo garden was available for sampling, and guests were able to taste numerous varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and melon and vote for their favorites. The Children's Garden offered shoe plantings with sedums, and dahlias and everlastings were available for take-home bouquets. Visitors could enter a potato-dig contest, watch demonstrations of concrete leaf castings, and make donations to the food bank. Ornamental plants were available for sale as well as the opportunity to learn about and experience a Dancing Water Bowl. The Bellevue Boys and Girls Club joined the festivities with a booth to promote their programs. Guests could also visit the diagnostic plant clinic, compost demonstration center, or simply wander about the many displays in the garden. A wonderful bluegrass band entertained the crowd for the duration of the event.

The festival was a huge success, and it was very rewarding to have so many people enjoying the Bellevue Demo Garden, especially the children.

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Rose Wakeman, Shizue Prochaska,  
and Donna Thomas



Visitors enjoying the Tomato Tasting



The Children's Garden was popular with  
younger guests

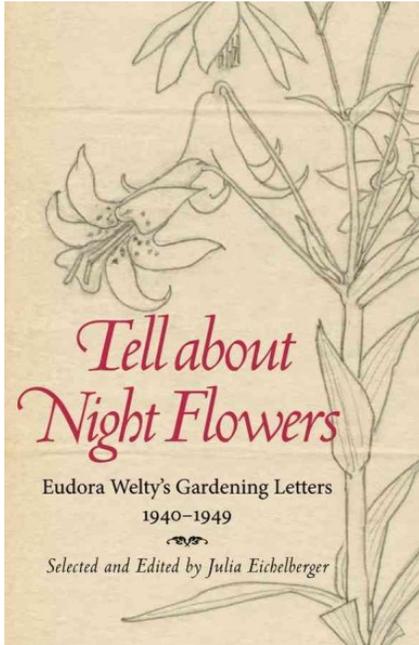


Colleen Williams at the dahlia station

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### An Event-Full Year in the Magnuson Children's Garden



*Tell About Night Flowers:  
Eudora Welty's Gardening  
Letters  
1940-1949  
University Press of  
Mississippi, 2013*

2013 has been a banner year in the Children's Garden in a variety of ways, with more public education than ever at our camps, classes, special events, and stewardship events! One of the major highlights again this year has been the tremendous support from individual MGs and from the Master Gardener Foundation, which make such a huge difference in the success and sustainability of all our programs and garden projects.

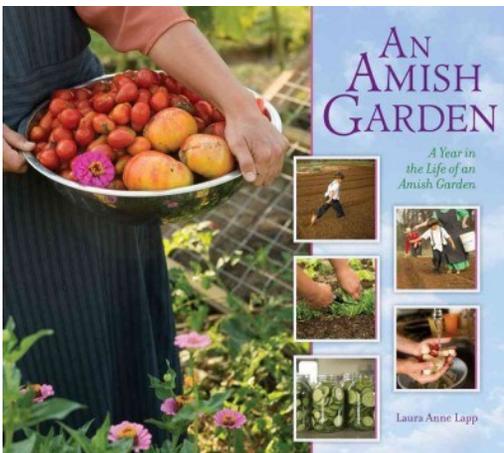
Thanks to a grant from the MG Foundation, our drip irrigation system now has a brand new valve system and control box, allowing the entire garden to be watered effectively and efficiently. The garden plants grew healthier and stronger than ever this summer despite the extra warm and dry weather (aka delightful!), and we still maintained our low-water-use goal.

We feel honored that many MGs have chosen to give time to the garden this year, and we would like to give special recognition to several MG vets and interns: Loie Hanson, Joy Naganuma, Barbara Hainley, Bev Morrow, Ross Radley, and Kelly Angell have given generous amounts of volunteer hours throughout the year, assisting with teaching hundreds of adults and children about soil-building and compost, sustainable gardening, nutrition, water quality and conservation, beneficial insects, native plants, habitat conservation, and more. Their participation has been of such great value and importance to the quality of all programs and special events, and to the health of the Children's Garden and our 2 demonstration landscapes. Our appreciation runs deep, and a mere "Thank You" to these volunteers, and to all others who have given their time and energy this year, is really not enough.

That is why we are hosting a special volunteer celebration on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12noon! We hope that all MGs who have participated at Magnuson this year will attend, and we invite all who are interested in finding out more about our activities to join us too! Please RSVP to [magnusonnatureprograms@gmail.com](mailto:magnusonnatureprograms@gmail.com) and hope to see you there!

Sincerely,  
Emily Bishton and Cindy Hazard  
Magnuson Children's Garden Committee Co-chairs

Check out our website at <http://magnusonnatureprograms.com/>



*An Amish Garden:  
A Year in the Life of an  
Amish Garden  
Good Books, 2013*

Questions?

[Master Gardener Foundation of King County](#)

Comments?

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Submissions?

Send us an e-mail!

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## **We Want Your Ideas for Recurring Columns! Send us an email: [newsletter@mgfkc.org](mailto: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?

