

The Dirt

The Newsletter of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County



July 2014

A Note from Our President, Dave Hanower



I want to give you an update on the governance of our Foundation. At the end of May, Becky Johnson and Rob Lehman "retired" from the Board of Directors after serving two three-year terms. Becky has organized the Plant Sale Preview Party for several years. Rob served as our Vice President and was active on a number of fronts. I want to thank Becky and Rob for their long and dedicated service and for their many contributions to our Foundation.

I am delighted that Anne Ellett and Rick Gillmore were willing to run for a second three-year term, and we are very pleased to welcome Diane Larkin

as a new director. Thank you to all Master Gardeners who took the time to vote in the election.

Our officers for the upcoming year are: Anne Ellett will serve as Vice President, Peggy Smith will continue as Treasurer, Penny Kriese will serve as Secretary, and I will continue in my current role.

The Board approved a change to our By-Laws in June, which permits us to elect Master Gardeners to fill unfilled seats on the Board, not just vacancies created when a director has to resign before his or her term is complete.

Our By-Laws state that the Board shall consist of 12 to 15 directors. In this May's election, only 3 Master Gardeners chose to run for the Board, even though 5 positions were available. At present,

we have the minimum of 12 directors.

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A strong Foundation is critical to the long-term success of the Master Gardener Program in King County, as we fund approximately two-thirds of our Program's expenses. And a strong and committed Board of Directors is critical to the long-term success of the Foundation. Thank you.

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A DANDY PLANT by Elaine Anderson

*Dear common flower, that grow'st beside the way,
Fringing the dusty road with harmless gold...*

James Russell Lowell

Approximately 30 million years ago, the dandelion originated in Asia and, long before we humans made an appearance, spread throughout the world. Our relationship with *Taraxacum officinale* began at least 1,000 years ago, and it was a far cry from the adversarial relationship we now share.

Throughout recorded history, the dandelion has been held in the highest esteem for its medicinal, nutritional, and commercial value. The ancient Egyptians used the plant, and descriptions of it appeared 300 years before the time of Christ. In the Middle Ages, Arabian physicians recognized its medicinal properties and gave it the name *Taraxacum*, from the Greek words for "disorder" and "remedy."

The dandelion has been called a "blessed medicine." It has even been given credit for having magical powers, among them the ability to ward off witches. Among its medicinal uses are as a tonic and digestive aid, a treatment for eye and skin ailments, to help cure liver disease, dissolve kidney stones, lower cholesterol and high blood pressure. In China, dandelion is one of the most widely used medicinal herbs.

When it comes to nutritional value, *Taraxacum officinale* is no slouch either. The plant is rich in vitamins C, A and D, in iron, calcium, magnesium and potassium. And, it gets good marks as a source of fiber and vegetable protein.

Why have we come to look upon the dandelion with a jaundiced eye? (Which we wouldn't have if we used it medicinally.) Quite likely, it was the idea of a perfect lawn that prompted us to take up arms against this esteemed plant. Now, the dandelion's commercial value stems mostly from the arsenal of weapons we purchase to use against it.

Slowly, however, the dandelion is reclaiming the respect it deserves. Here in the United States we import over 100,000 pounds of dandelion roots annually for use in patent medicines. And, the plant is grown domestically for sale at produce stands, not only in farmers markets, but in supermarkets as well. We may never come to welcome dandelion's cheery golden flower in our lawns and flowerbeds. But, if we must continue to look upon it as a weed, let us at least recognize it for the marvelous weed it is.



Future Foundation Meetings

All Master Gardeners are welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings.

Thursday, August 14th, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, CUH

Thursday, September 11th, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, Shorewood Culinary Garden (tour at 6:30)

Thursday, October 9th, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, CUH

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FUNDRAISING RECAP by Peggy Smith, MGFKC Treasurer

May is always a major fund raising month for the Master Gardener Foundation and we had a most successful month.

We participated again in Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG day and had generous support from our members. We raised \$3,695 in donations and, as part of the program, received a \$266 matching gift from the Seattle Foundation.



May is, of course, Plant Sale month. And while the Plant Sale Committee is still tying up a few loose ends, we look to be on target to raise approximately \$25,000. If that sounds like a lot of hard work, it was. But also lots of fun and we can be proud of another successful Plant Sale. The Raffle raised \$5,000 thanks to a generous Master Gardener who donated the prize money.

The Foundation has also been the recipient of some sizable matching grants from area employers. We want to give a big thanks to Microsoft, Verizon and Boeing for their generous donations and a reminder to check with your employer to see what opportunities they offer to increase the size of any donation you make. Some of our Master Gardeners are even getting matching grants based on their volunteer hours. What a great way to double the impact of your efforts.

Thanks to all of you for your financial support which allows the Foundation to fund all the items that go into the running of the clinics and gardens.

'A POOR FARMER GROWS WEEDS.
A MEDIOCRE FARMER GROWS CROPS.
A GOOD FARMER GROWS SOIL.'

OLD JAPANESE PROVERB



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

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PLANT SALE RECAP by Horst Momber

..... At first it rained, and then it poured! That's probably the most memorable aspect of Plant Sale 2014. One major benefit: No one had to worry about plants drying out in the open. But the best part of the sale was the undaunted spirit of 286 Master Gardeners who signed in for one or more shifts. The sale is truly a community-building happening. All who were there enjoyed interacting with customers and other Master Gardeners. So much to see and so much to learn. Everyone focused on plants and responsible gardening.

Regarding profit, we don't have all the bills paid yet, but it appears that we cleared about the same as we did last year, somewhere between \$25k - \$30K. This is an important fund raiser for the MG Foundation. After the big budget cuts from other sources of MG program income, most of the expenses of the MG Program are funded by the Foundation.

Thanks to Foundation, who realized that a well-fed Master Gardener is a happier person, our Hospitality crew, headed by Valentina Barei, had a significant food budget from which to work. No one went away wanting. There was always excellent food, good company and a place to be dry for a moment. Great job, Hospitality crew! Thank you!! Equally great job of Patty Logan and Rick Gilmore who secured several donations of food and other groceries. Everyone enjoyed the water bottles and those beautiful green aprons that gave us a professional look. Many thanks to the MG Foundation who recognize our contribution to a worthwhile purpose. It's good to be appreciated!

One question that comes up every once in a while: 'We're a plant sale, why do we have all those other vendors there?' Thanks to the superb organizational skills of Margery Godfrey and Debby O'Neal, we have a great crew of vendors who add to the diversity of what we offer. The majority of them return year after year. We charge all vendors for the space and share the profit of the plants they sell.

Patty Logan stepped up to help with sale planning. She brings new energy, great ideas, a different point of view and an undaunted spirit. We look forward to future great and greater sales. Hoping that we'll get more people to step forward and accept a chunk of responsibility, we can spread our name, increase the choice and quality of plants and streamline the organization. Think about it. Are YOU willing? Do YOU have just a little more time to devote to the planning and background work for the sale? Drop Patty an 'e-mail' pmlogan60@comcast.net, join the Plant Sale Team.

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FUN AT THE PREVIEW PARTY AND PLANT SALE!



A Race to the Tomatoes is On!



Gordon Polson, The Glove Man



The Veggie Queens!



Carol Arnold, Ed Hume and Cisco Morris at the Preview Party

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NEW CACTUS GARDEN AT THE BELLEVUE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN by Wally Prestbo

George Pinyuh, former King and Pierce County extension agent and long time master gardener, was a very important contributor to the Bellevue Demonstration Garden. He frequently gave many inspiring workshops which were always well attended. George had planted and took care of a small cactus garden which was not in an ideal location. Only George could make cactus grow there.

Sadly George passed away in the winter of 2013. In memory of George, Larry Davis headed up an idea to establish a memorial cactus bed in his honor making it a permanent place to pay tribute. Larry also set up a fund raising program to pay for establishing the new bed. Wally Prestbo arranged for delivery of a type of soil adaptable to cactus, thus began the work crew's build out of the new bed. Several of George's cacti had been saved and were transplanted into the new bed in May, 2014.

To add more cactus some members from the Demo Garden traveled to the *Hillside Cactus Garden* in Yakima. The cactus was graciously donated by Ron McKitrick, the owner of Hillside. George had visited Ron's garden several times and enjoyed conversing with him about their trials as well as their passion for growing cactus.

The bed is now in place. A dedication is planned but the date is yet to be determined. Master Gardener, Mark Sevonty, has agreed to maintain the garden. We have already enjoyed blossoms from the new and transplanted cactus.



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THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WE HAD ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RAFFLE!

Congratulations to MG Cecilia McGowan who won the first prize of \$750 and bought her ticket at her clinic. Second prize of \$250 was won by Jeff Grashin (not a MG) who purchased it at the Plant Sale.

Yes – we sold all the tickets – in spite of the weather at the Plant Sale and the slow start of some of the clinics. (If each active MG bought – or sold – only one book of five tickets, we would not have enough tickets to distribute to everyone!)

Why do we do this every year? Well, it's not that much work, it gives everyone a chance to participate (at \$2 for a ticket it's cheaper than a cup of coffee) and over **the past 12 years, the Raffle has raised more than \$55,000 to support our MG programs.** Those funds have been instrumental, for example, in support of our Diagnostic Lab, the Teaching Kit Program, and providing resources for our Clinics and Gardens.

The backbone of this effort is our Clinics, and here's a list of the stars – those clinics who sold ALL their tickets:

*Bellevue Nursery
Federal Way,
Mercer Island
Redmond
Renton Farmers Market
Renton McLendons
Shoreline/Lake City
Snoqualmie Valley
Ballard Farmers Market
SoDo Home Depot
and the Zoo*

The Raffle Committee extends a big **Thank You** to all who participated.

Joyce Harms, Judy Porterfield, Steve Scott

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THE ALL NEW CESAR CHAVEZ DEMONSTRATION GARDEN by Mick Duggan



On June 28th the Cesar Chavez Demonstration Garden (CCDG) held its Grand Re-Opening. Even with a few showers there was a steady stream of visitors checking out the newly rebuilt garden.

The CCDG which is located within the Santo Rodriguez Memorial Park at El Centro de la Raza on Beacon Hill has been completely rebuilt. This came about as a result of the relationship the gardeners of CCDG have established with El Centro de la Raza. When El Centro began working with Seattle City Parks in early 2012 to develop the Santo Rodriguez Memorial Park into a joint private/ public park for the residents of Beacon Hill, El Centro looked to the Master Gardeners of CCDG for input. After many meetings with El Centro, Seattle Parks and the CCDG MG's an overall design containing demo garden, playground and park space was worked out.

By the fall of 2012, it was determined that the project would start with Parks removing any inappropriate trees in December of that year and with regrading of the site to begin early January 2013. This put a time crunch on the CCDG MG's to dig up and pot any of the plants or shrubs they wished to save. On many a cold rainy day in November 2012 the MG's set to task. With no storage space available on site, the MG's transported pot after pot to their homes for storage in addition to shovels and hoes; literally everything had to be taken off site. Even the local coffee shop across the street from the garden was convinced to temporarily have their new back patio completely decorated with some of the potted materials from the grounds.

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The trees were removed in December of 2012. In January 2013 the Seattle City Parks Department went through reorganization and the project was put on hold. In late spring Parks was ready to resume the work but El Centro realized this would drastically limit the use of the children's playground. Finally, it was determined that the work would resume sometime in late summer. This put the MG's in a position of having to keep all the potted materials alive from what was going to be just a couple of months over the winter to more than a year. The other challenge for the MG's was how to keep a presence in the neighborhood with the unknown status of the garden for the summer.

By September of 2013 the renovation resumed. After Thanksgiving, the site for the new greenhouse was completed. Included in the garden design was a greenhouse which was the result of a partnership with El Centro, the CCDG MG's and United Way of King County. A Grant provided the funding for the materials for a free growing food educational series for neighbors as well as the cost of the greenhouse. The greenhouse helps provide low cost vegetable starts to the neighborhood and the on-site food bank.

By the end of January 2014 Parks had completed its construction and a new perimeter fence had been installed. The main irrigation line tests were run in March. Soon after, the stored plants began their journey back to the garden site. The drip irrigation lines for the vegetable beds are installed and currently undergoing testing.

Like any Garden the work is ongoing but CCDG now has a new look. Drop by and check it out. The garden is located just 200 yards north of the Beacon Hill Light Rail Station.



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GROW YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION Rick Gillmore & Bev Kratz

If you have been considering a donation to the King County Master Gardener Foundation, your timing couldn't be better. Many employers in our county offer matching gift programs, and the number keeps growing. It's easy to increase the impact of your donation just by requesting a match from your company! Whether it is a monetary donation or a donation of your time, you'll be happy to know that there are many local companies who will match these with cash donations back to us. Imagine providing additional funding for the Master Gardener Foundation by doing what you love!

Last year King County Master Gardeners donated nearly 29,000 volunteer hours valued at more than \$600,000. We did this through plant clinics, demonstration and outreach gardens, speakers' bureau, a phone clinic, classroom outreach programs, and dozens of classes and workshops. Valuable activities to say the least! Now just imagine how much impact we could have if we could easily increase even some of this year's donations!

Below is just a sampling King County companies who offer matching gifts. There are many companies likely not on the list so if you don't see your company, or aren't sure how to request your matching gift, simply contact your Human Resources department.

Remember, the Foundation is a tax exempt, non-profit organization. Our IRS tax ID number is 91-1276404.

AAA	ACCO Engineered Systems	Adobe
Aetna	Agilent Technologies	Aleutian Spray Fisheries
Allied Insurance	Allstate	Allysis
American Express	Amgen Foundation	Ameriprise Financial
Amgen	Anderson Corporation	Apex Foundation
Attachmate Co.	Avery Dennison	Bank of America
Bank of NY Mellon	Banner Bank	Bassetti Architects
Battelle Seattle Research Center	Bearing Point	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Boeing	Boeing Employees Credit Union	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Car Toys	Cargill	Caterpillar, Inc
CenturyLink	Chubb Group	Cingular
Clorox	Commerce Bank of WA	Constellation Energy Group
Corbis	Costco	Countrywide
Delta Dental	Dick's Drive-In	Eli Lilly and Company
Elliott Bay Design Group	Enterprise Holdings	Enumclaw Insurance Group
Expeditors International of WA	First Horizon	FM Global Foundation
Food Services of America	Freddie Mac Foundation	Gap Foundation
General Dynamics	GeoEngineers	Glosten Assocs

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GM Nameplate	Graham & Dunn	Grange Insurance Group
Green Diamond Resource	Green Tree Servicing	Google
Hanover Insurance	Hershey Food Corp	Hewlett-Packard
Hoffman Construction Co of WA	Holland America	Honeywell
Hospira	ING	Hyperion Matching Gifts
JP Morgan Chase	Kellogg Company	Kimberly-Clark
King County Employees	Lease Crutcher Lewis	Ledcor Corp
Liberty Mutual Insurance	Lowe's	Lynden Inc
MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions	MCM – a Meisenbach Company	Mercer
Merck Human Health	Merrill Lynch	Microsoft
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney	Mortenson Construction	Moss Adams
National Frozen Foods Corp	Nintendo	Northwestern Mutual Life
Ocular Instruments	OfficeMax	Pacific Life
Parametrix	PCL	PEMCO
Pfizer	Physicians Insurance	Physio-Control
Piper-Jaffrey	Pitney Bowes	Plum Creek Timber Company
Polyclinic	Principal Financial Group	Prudential
Puget Sound Energy	Quaker Hill Foundation	Quorum Review
Quellos	RealNetworks	Regence Blue Shield
REI	Russell Investments	Sabre
Safeco	Saint-Gobain Matching	SaltChuk Resources
SAP	Schneider Electric	Seattle Mariners
Seattle Steam Company	Seattle-Northwest Securities Corp	Stafford Frey Cooper
Starbucks	State Farm	Sterling Bank
Sterling Realty	Summit Law Group	Sunbelt Controls
Superior Underwriters	Symetra	Tesoro
Tetra Tech Insurance Group	TIAA-CREF	Toyota Motor
Trane Corp	Union Bank	UniSea
University Volkswagen/Audi	US Bank Matching	Verizon Foundation
Washington Mutual	WG Clark Construction	Walmart
Walsh Construction	Washington Athletic Club	Washington Dental Service
Washington Federal	Wellpoint	Western Pioneer
WilsonArt	Working Solutions	Wright Runstad
Xcel Energy	XPEDX	Zevenbergen Capital
Zones		

For more information on matching gifts please visit contact your company's Human Resources department. To find out more about donating to the Master Gardener Foundation of King County please visit

<http://www.mgfk.org/support-us/donate>

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Questions?

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Comments?

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Submissions?

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Send us an e-mail!

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Anne Ellett
Cecilia McGowan

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?

