

## 2015 Master Gardener Recognition Honors

**Suzanne Broback for her work at the Plant Sale:** Suzanne is honored for her many hours coordinating the vegetable and herb section committee's preparation for the sale. Suzanne is a cheerful and appreciative chairperson who is generous with her time, information and praise. She gives frequent and positive communication to her volunteers before, during, and after the sale. Many Master Gardeners volunteer year after year, specifying that they want to work with Suzanne in the vegetables/herbs section.

**Drexie Malone for the Carkeek Park Demonstration Garden:** Drexie is honored for her efforts to understand and meet the MG requirements to have the the Carkeek Park Demo Garden accepted as a Master Gardener demonstration garden; and for her success in identifying fellow Master Gardeners to work with her to plan and maintain the garden. Drexie's efforts have led to the addition of a new educational site demonstrating the Master Gardener mission in the north Seattle area.

**Frank Peters for the Ballard Fred Meyer Clinic and Thyme Patch Demonstration Garden:** Frank was recognized for the years (16) and hours (1000s) he has given to the Master Gardener program. He has been leader of the Thyme Patch Garden for 10 years and shows no signs of leaving that position. He has created a plant ID brochure for the garden and lovingly cares for its fruit trees. This results in large harvests for the Ballard Food Bank. When Frank was the leader of the Ballard Fred Meyer Clinic he was an excellent role model and mentor for the clinic's new interns.

**Wally Prestbo for the Bellevue Demonstration Garden:** Wally organized the creation of a Memorial Cactus Garden honoring George Pinyuh in the demonstration garden. He labored to build the garden, procured special cacti from Yakima, and had a beautiful plaque made. Wally promotes continuing education for Master Gardeners, who learn something from him every week from either an article, a specimen from his garden, or a pearl of gardening wisdom. Wally is also a tomato expert, and he shares his knowledge at both the demo garden and the plant sale.

**Gary Scheider for the Snoqualmie Valley Clinic Co-Leader:** Gary is a Foundation Board Member and Chair of the Clinic Committee. The following things have been said about Gary: he is knowledgeable, a lovely, humble kind of guy, effective communicator, dedicated to helping his clinic flourish, encouraging and empowering, sets an incredible example of dedication to the Master Gardener program, and solves problems with tact and humor.

**Cathy Ullakko for the Bellevue Demonstration Garden and Clinic:** Cathy takes responsibility for scheduling volunteers for both the garden and the clinic. She also schedules hosts for Saturday workshops. She is a mentor for annual training, trains interns in the garden, and is responsible for the Intern Luncheon. Cathy is manager of the Children's garden, and her activities during the annual Harvest Festival are always a big success. She often fills in when someone can't attend to her/his garden tasks. Cathy adds humor and an upbeat spirit to working in the garden.

### **The President's Award: Joyce Harms, Judy Porterfield and Steve Scott for the *Sherlock in the Garden Program***

This new award is presented to an individual Master Gardener or group of Master Gardeners whose work on a specific project or program in the last year has helped to "provide education and information on horticulture to the citizens of King County." This group of individuals developed and presented a day-

long program in March 2015 entitled *Sherlock in the Garden: How to be an Even Better Plant Detective*. The purpose of this program was to hone Master Gardener diagnostic skills prior to the opening of the clinic season with emphasis on plant pathologies, and to support the use of clinic resources to find solutions to these problems once they were identified. This group developed a testing component to help evaluate the program and provide data for a potential credentialing program. They arranged for two well-respected speakers, and they coordinated registration, refreshments, and room scheduling. The event was 'sold out,' volunteers were recruited to help with the event, registration packets were prepared and distributed, and, after all was said and done, thank you notes were sent to those who helped with the event. Joyce, Judy and Steve's vision, planning and follow-through made this program a highlight of the year.

**The Foundation Award: Gary Scheider for the Clinic Refresh project**

This new award is presented to a Master Gardener in special recognition for "above and beyond" service that has significantly helped the Foundation in achieving its mission to support the Master Gardener Program in King County. This award is presented to Gary for his initiative in handling the 2015 project to upgrade clinic assets, such as the props, signage, and other identifying artifacts used by the clinics in meeting the public. This project, now referred to as the Clinics' Refresh project, involved identifying vendors, acquiring samples, providing specifications, placing orders and coordinating delivery of all items to the clinics. This has been a wide-ranging project and has definitely had a positive impact on the 'face' of the Master Gardener program in its interactions with the public.