



The Foundation Connection

A monthly e-newsletter from the Master Gardener Foundation of King County

October 2015 Issue



Ask a Master Gardener E-Clinic



E-clinic Master Gardeners Jan Mote (at left with her

In This Issue

Ask a Master Gardener E-Clinic

Master Gardeners State Conference

Master Gardener's Tribal Life Trail

The 2015 Ellen A'Key Grant Awarded to Pend Oreille County Master Gardener Program

Master Gardener Foundation Directors Spotlight: Kelly

"Until we lost our King County funding, we had a phone clinic," says Elaine Anderson, Program Coordinator. "We lost our King County phone line when we lost funding and moved our office," recalls Elaine. "I met with Master Gardener phone clinic volunteers to explain that the phone clinic was being discontinued. The obvious solution was an email clinic."

And now answers to gardening questions are as close as a computer keyboard, thanks to the Master Gardener Program's Ask a Master Gardener E-clinic, <http://www.mgfk.org/e-clinic>. "Gardening questions are answered by our experts," states the Foundation's website.

Who are these experts? Meet King County Master Gardeners **Jan Mote** and **Carolina Wagemans**.

[Read the full article](#)

Master Gardeners State Conference

September 16th to 20th, 2015, Vancouver, Washington

...by Paul Gardiner



Art Wolfe with the Conference Organizers.

*L to R: Karen Palmer, Art Wolfe, Dean
Sutera and Fran Hammond*

This year's conference was organized by Clark County at the Hilton in Vancouver, Washington. It was a great success and a very pleasurable three-and-a-half days.

We arrived midday on Wednesday for a tour for early arrivals. We visited the [Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge](#), established in 1965 on a floodplain next to the Columbia River. Today the Refuge preserves both habitat for wildlife, and evidence of the people who once lived there.

We did some wildlife viewing and then proceeded to the [Cathlapotle Plankhouse](#), built to replicate part of a village that Lewis and Clark visited in March of 1806 on their return journey up the Columbia. It was a fascinating experience, enhanced by the deep knowledge of the Plankhouse and artifacts shown by our docent, Eugene.

Next we visited the Bethany Winery in Ridgefield for a field survey of the horticultural aspects of local grape growing and an in depth sampling!

The Conference-proper opened on Thursday morning with introductory notes from Dean Sutera, Karen Palmer and Fran Hammond (the Clark County Foundation organizing committee - they managed 10 subcommittees and many volunteers from the Clark County Master Gardeners). Nicole Martini, Statewide Master Gardener Program Leader, discussed the State's role and gave an appeal for a County to step up and run a future Statewide Conference...

[Read the full article](#)

Master Gardener's Tribal Life Trail

An Ethnobotanical Garden

The Tribal Life Trail at Lake Wilderness Arboretum in Maple Valley is a trail-style demonstration garden that focuses on plants used by native peoples of the Puget Sound area. Master Gardeners have been involved in the demonstration garden since its inception.

Tribal Life Trail provides an educational platform and understanding of the foods,

medicines and many other practical functions derived from the plants found in the demonstration garden. Signage along the Trail provides visitors with plant information and typical Native American usages.

The trail is approximately 270 feet long and meanders in and out of the forest edge along the Lake Wilderness Arboretum.

June 5, 2010 marked the grand opening of the Trail, but Lake Wilderness Arboretum's vision for an ethnobotanical display garden took shape in 2005. After trail clearing and installing the initial plantings took place, WSU Extension Master Gardeners assumed responsibility for the demonstration garden in 2008.



A Native American totem greets visitors

Ties to the Arboretum remain strong. "We run the garden in cooperation with the Lake Wilderness Arboretum," says Tribal Life Trail Master Gardener Leader Ankie Stroes. "They help us with watering and ordering of supplies and plants," she adds.

"We have over 150 varieties of plants that are specific to their use by the native Puget Sound Tribes," says Ankie. "The plants are separated by culinary, medicinal, utilitarian, clothing and ceremonial uses."

[Read the full article](#)

The 2015 Ellen A'Key Grant Awarded to Pend Oreille County Master Gardener Program

In January of 2009, the Ellen A'Key Grant Program was born. The grant is named in memory of Ellen A'Key, King County Master Gardener, whose generous bequest enabled the Master Gardener Foundation of King County (MGFKC) to establish a reserve fund. It is in her honor that the MGFKC shares our resources with other Master Gardener programs around the state.



Pend Oreille County's Master Gardener Program will use the grant to help renovate a greenhouse and garden

The Ellen A'Key Grant is designed to assist and support WSU Master Gardener projects in non-urban counties of Washington State; particular consideration is given to smaller counties where support dollars might be sparse.

"We were pleased to receive five applications for the A'Key grant program this year - from Asotin, Benton-Franklin, Clallam, Pend Oreille and Skagit counties," says Anne Ellett, Master Gardener Foundation of King County (MGFKC) Vice President.

[Read the full article](#)

Master Gardener Foundation Directors Spotlight:

Kelly Angell

Kelly Angell joined the Master Gardener Foundation of King County Board of Directors in September, 2014. She shares some thoughts on gardening and volunteering with the Master Gardener Program.

How did you get into gardening? I grew up on a farm in Montana, and my mom put me to work every year in her ginormous vegetable garden - planting, weeding, watering, picking, putting up the harvest for winter. I absolutely hated it. But as I got older, and after years of city living, I found that I missed planting stuff, digging in the dirt, being around green growing things, and the simple pleasure of eating something you grew yourself. So I started with cherry tomatoes and flower pots on my apartment deck. When we bought our house, we ripped out the lawn and installed a new trees, shrubs and perennials. The garden is constantly evolving (as gardens do). One of the things I love about gardening is that there is no right or wrong way to go about it, you just need to get out there and do it. Nature is a wonderful teacher - beauty, tolerance, patience, resilience, gratitude...



Kelly Angell

[Read the full article](#)

What's Happening?

News and Updates

- [Next MGF Board Meeting](#): Thursday, **Oct. 10**, at the Center for Urban Horticulture.
- **Master Gardener Rain Gardens & Natural Yard Care workshops Oct. 10** at Third Place Books Commons in Lake Forest.
- [Applications for 2016 Master Gardener training class](#) are now available. **Submission deadline is Oct. 16**. Incorporating online modules and classroom instruction, the Master Gardener training class in King County will be on 12 consecutive Saturdays beginning on Jan. 9, 2016. Contact Elaine Anderson for more information.
- **Annual MGF Meeting & MG Recognition Dinner, Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 6:30PM at CUH**. Mark the date on your calendar. Details will be provided in an email from Elaine shortly.
- [Recognition Nominations for Outstanding Master Gardeners](#). These Master Gardeners will be honored at the Recognition Dinner in October. Now is the time to think about whom to nominate who has gone 'above and beyond' in service to the Master Gardener program in King County. Review the [2015 Guidelines and Form](#). **The deadline for submission is 5PM, Monday, October 12.**



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