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The Foundation Connection

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

October 2017 Issue



Renton McLendon Hardware Master Gardener Clinic: A Clinic with History

...by Master Gardeners Jean Daniels and Darcane Nixon

The Renton McLendon Master Gardener Clinic has a rich history in King County. From the Smith Tower in downtown Seattle to Southcenter Mall to the Kent Fred Meyer and finally to the Renton McLendon Hardware, MGs have faithfully staffed the Clinic to answer questions from local gardeners.

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Foundation Plantings: *President's Letter*

*...by Master Gardener Foundation Board
President Penny Kriese*

In February 2000 at the turn of the century, then-Foundation President Dick Chapin noted that "we do not have to encourage folks to garden, they seem to have been digging in the dirt since they arrived on the good earth. It must be an instinctive urge like eating." So I ask, why do we do it? To create beauty, to relax, to feed ourselves and others, or even because someone tells us to (you know, "mow the grass" or "weed the garden").

Where do Master Gardeners fit in these scenarios? We are there to ease the frustrations of those who work in the gardens when their plants don't thrive, when the bugs take over, when the tree dies, when someone just needs to know how to make a rose bush bloom, or what to plant in that wet, shady spot. That is when Master Gardeners step in with their knowledge and the science-based horticultural information to show gardeners in all stages of their development what they need to know and where to find it. We are there to say the words that will give comfort and assurance for them to do properly what they are doing anyway, to show them the source of the information they need, where they can find those resources, and more information that they may not even know to ask for - yet.

As Master Gardeners, we can teach folks why it makes good sense to do something properly for themselves, for their community, and for the environment. We just need to be ready to "say, show and share" our knowledge and experience. Remember this phrase because you will see it again.

For new MGs, don't try to remember everything, just know where to find the answers. For veteran MGs, take the time to familiarize yourself with the updated resources provided to the clinics this year so you can show others how to find these resources. This is how we share our enthusiasm and learning with others who like digging in the dirt almost as much as we do. Thank you for being the amazing Master Gardener volunteers that you are.



Cultivate (More) Knowledge ***Ash on My Asters: Should I Be Worried?***

...by Master Gardener Wendy Lagozzino

The wildfires in Washington and British Columbia deposited a fine film of ash on our gardens. Should we be concerned? The science of wildfire ash may provide some clues.

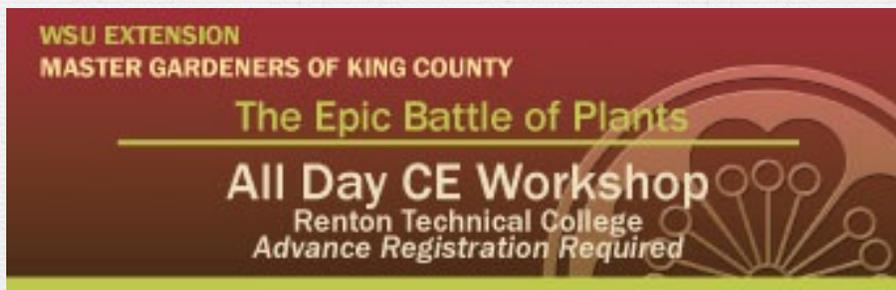
[Read the full article](#)



The Generosity of Master Gardeners: *Giving for the Future*

Master Gardeners give generously of their time and money for the good of the program. As we approach the end of the year, the number of requests for donations and gifts from a variety of organizations increases. Read about bequests from two of those generous MGs, one bequest just received and one bequest in action.

[Read the full article](#)



The Epic Battle of Plants: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Come for a full day of continuing education on Saturday, November 18, featuring Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott and the education specialist from the King Count Noxious Weed Control Program.

[Information and registration here](#)

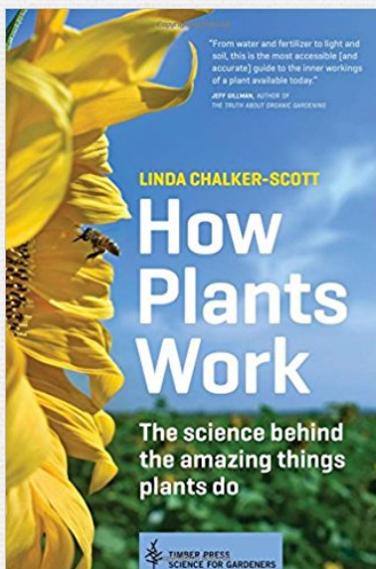


Master Gardener September Events: *Bellevue Demo Garden Fall Festival; Cool Plants, Hot Topics at the Bellevue Botanical Garden; Master Gardener State Conference*

September was a busy month for Master Gardeners: two successful sales and

the state Master Gardener conference. Read about the events, then visit our [Facebook](#) page for photos.

[Read the full article](#)



The Elisabeth C. Miller Library Gardening/Horticulture Book of the Month

How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott presents a user-friendly way to learn about how plants do what they do. Chalker-Scott's education and research background plus her own garden experience take us to the molecular level but also consider the aesthetics of gardening. Dr. Chalker-Scott is a featured speaker at the

November CE event.

[Read the full article](#)

Don't Check Your Skills at the Door!

We can find a use for them

Can You Help??



Would you like to help with the Foundation for the Master Gardener Program? We need skills in several areas to carry out the work of the Foundation. Here are some of our current needs:

- **Newsletter:** we are searching for writers to contribute articles of interest to MGs, short subjects, editing and working with our online template.
- **Historian:** we are looking for someone who is interested in research, likes looking into files and newsletters to recreate a story.
- **IT:** we are looking for a small group of technology-saavy MGs to research tech tools that might help us with the program, newsletter, event registrations and more.

Much of the important work of the Foundation to help the MG Program is managed by committees. You do not need to be on the Board of Directors in order to participate on a committee, and yet you can have a big impact. Are you up for it? If this is you and you are interested or want to find out more, contact Penny Kriese, president@mgfkc.org.

[Read about our needs](#)

What's Happening? *News and Updates*

- **Next MGF Board Meeting:** Thursday, **October 12**, at CUH. The meeting begins at 7:00PM.
- **Oct. 5**, submit your nomination for a **2017 KCMG Outstanding Master Gardener** to be recognized at our Oct.21 event. [Guidelines are here.](#)
- **Oct. 21**, 9:AM-Noon **2017 Recognition Celebration & Foundation Annual Meeting**. Keynote speaker: **Riz Reyes**. [Sign up today.](#)



Staying Smart - CE Opportunities

- **Oct. 7, Sat., 10AM** BDG: Fall Groundwork in the natural garden with Laura Matter from the Seattle Tilth hotline.
- **Oct. 14, Sat., 10AM** BDG: Year Around Bulbs with MG Joan Helbacka.
- **Nov. 18, Sat.**, Epic Battle of Plants: the Renton Tech all-day MG CE workshop. [Find out about this event and register.](#)

WHERE am I?

Find King County Master Gardener clinics and gardens using the [MGFKC map](#).

Do you have an event or CE opportunity to share? Submit items to consider for our list of announcements to secretary@mgfkc.org.

[Forward this email](#)

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