



## The Foundation Connection

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

### 2018 Master Gardener Annual Meeting Breakfast: *Recognizing Excellence and Dedication*

...by Master Gardener and Immediate Past President Penny Kriese



*Preview Party Team: l to r Bonnie Nordgren, Marcia Dillon, Emilie Castle, Marg Walker (not pictured: Gale Baullinger, Vicki Clayton, Traci Hanna, Ellon Jarvis, Suzi O'Byrne, Donna Thomas)*

Here we were again, an October morning and a gathering of Master Gardeners at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) to celebrate another successful year. Like last year, attendance was high — over 120 at this year's Recognition Event and Annual Meeting — and there was an outstanding speaker, plenty to eat and lots of sharing. This was an opportunity to celebrate our Master Gardener community, the environment that shapes the ways we strengthen and support each other as a village.

Master Gardener Program Co-Coordinator and Foundation President Carrie Hill welcomed the attendees and special guest Jim Kropf, WSU Extension Natural Resources Program Director. Carrie also noted the recent retirement of our longtime Program Coordinator, Elaine Anderson,

who was unable to attend. One final gift sent to Elaine will be a photo album of her retirement party. Carrie recounted that she and Penny Kriese, Past President of the Foundation, are stepping in to share the Program Coordinator position until WSU identifies Elaine's replacement.

Carrie began by reminding the attendees that since 1984, the Foundation has been critical to the success of the WSU Extension Master Gardener program in King County, funding over 80 percent of our activities each year. She recognized the Board members and encouraged those present to explore ways to serve by joining the Foundation Board or serving on a committee. She welcomed the 2018 intern class, applauding their wisdom in joining our program, and she encouraged all Master Gardeners to remember to record their hours on a regular basis to ensure coverage by WSU liability insurance as they participate in Master Gardener activities.



*Growing Groceries 2.0 team: l to r Linda Shepherd, Darien Payne, Sharon O'Grady, Gia Parsons ( not pictured: Sue Kraemer, Carrie Hill, Penny Kriese, Gary Scheider, Elaine Anderson)*

Finally, Carrie announced that WSU Extension has approval to fill Elaine's program coordinator position and quoted Todd Murray, Director of WSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Unit, that it is up to each of us to make sure our program is the best it can be. Board Treasurer Peggy Smith then offered a summary of the Foundation's very positive financial picture.

The awards presentation followed the Foundation meeting. A [handout](#) on the tables listed the awardees along with the list of those who received service pins at the end of 2017. After the awards ceremony, Nita-Jo Rountree, a local and well-known garden designer, educator and author provided an inspiring talk about growing roses in the Puget Sound area.



*Work 'n Learn Leaders*

## **Awards**

Five Master Gardeners were recognized by their peers as Outstanding Master Gardeners in 2018. There were also two Foundation awards and several special recognition awards. In all, 74 certificates were presented to this year's honorees.

**Jeff Daley** and **Daryl Schlessner**, co-leaders of the Burien Clinic, selected as an example of when 1+1 equals more than 2. This duo led the 37 Master Gardeners at the Des Moines Farmers Market and Burien Library clinics and several pop-up clinics this year. They

demonstrate a broad and collaborative view of leadership, inspiring and motivating with diplomacy, humor and thoughtfulness as this clinic continues to grow.

**Peggy Farrell**, long time member and contributor to the Bellevue Demo Garden, was recognized for her years in the water-wise section of the garden, her generosity of spirit in sharing strategies and plant selections, and her commitment to the garden and the mission of the program.

**Alison Johnson**, a member of and co-leader for the Redmond Farmers Market Clinic, was recognized for many of the roles she handles as a Board member and fund raiser, member of the Bellevue Demo Garden, speaker on English gardens and Education Committee member. Alison was described as having “this amazing way of motivating us to do what’s needed in such an engaging manner!” As a proponent of education, she looks for and creates opportunities to blend educational goals from our program and other horticulture groups such as the Northwest Perennial Alliance for both groups’ benefit. Invariably stepping in as last-minute helper, she sets a generous example for her clinic and others.

**Eric Sladky**, a member of Magnuson Children’s Garden since 2016, was recognized for stepping into a leadership role in the garden this year to help supervise volunteers in reworking the irrigation system from planning through design review, playing a key role with the Parks Department Pro View team. His garden team praised his contributions as leader, working with volunteer groups and inspiring others with his friendly, respectful and gracious demeanor.

**Members of the *Heads UP!* Editorial Team**, were recognized for their dedication and hard work in producing the issues of the Diagnostics Lab’s newsletter, *Heads UP!*. This publication has a robust audience of readers that extends beyond King County. Barbara Reisinger, Sue Nicol, Penny Kriese and Elaine Sherbrooke, were recognized for their work in developing and producing these issues.

**Special Awards from the Program** in line with the theme of “It takes a village” were given to several members of the Bellevue Demo Garden for their continuing contributions:

**Lori Armitage**, a member of the BDG, for her management of the potato bed, her talks on garlic and other specialties, as the go-to person during the BDG plant sales and for her friendly and approachable interactions with fellow gardeners and visitors.

**Bruce Caredio**, a member of the BDG Steering Committee, for making lemonade from lemons this year during the City of Bellevue construction in the garden. A 2018 training mentor, PlantAmnesty Master Pruner, and a big part of the CUH and BDG plant sales, Bruce was recognized for generously donating his time and talents to the native bed at BDG, donating his handmade birdhouses and plant containers to the sales, growing bonsai and, in general, being Mr. Positive.

**Vicki Clayton**, a member of the BDG Steering Committee, for her management of the BDG shade garden. Vicki managed the digging up of the shade garden prior to construction, safeguarding the plants so they were ready for restoration. She ensures Master Gardeners are recognized every two weeks as a new celebrated MG is named and is a willing helper at the BDG plant sales from start to teardown.

**Colleen Donahue**, member of the BDG, for her leadership role of the BDG greenhouse team. As a constant presence at the greenhouse, she tends the seeds and plants, shares knowledge with interns and vets alike, spending hours tucked away from the rest of the garden in this ongoing effort. She was also recognized for her contribution to the annual garden at the entry to BDG, growing the plants each year from seed, ensuring the garden looks good year-round. This year she gave her first talk on seed saving, still growing in her role in the garden.

**The President's Award to the Growing Groceries 2.0 Team** presented to Linda Shepherd and the team of Gia Parsons, Gary Scheider, Penny Kriese, Sharon O'Grady, Carrie Hill, Darien Payne, Elaine Anderson and Sue Kraemer. This award recognizes a specific project that has helped to "provide education and information on horticulture to the citizens of King County." Led by Linda Shepherd, this team surveyed the Master Gardeners for expertise and interest, developed a curriculum and presentation materials, secured a location and created a website to support the project to deliver ten 2.5-hour classes over 8 months through May 2019. Showing leadership and persistence, this team's project will continue to be enjoyed throughout the winter and into the beginning of next year's planting season.

**The Foundation Award to the Preview Party/Garden Gala Group** presented to Bonny Nordgren (Leader), Gale Baullinger, Emilie Castle, Vickie Clayton, Marcia Dillon, Traci Hanna, Ellon Jarvis, Suzi O'Byrne, Donna Thomas and Marg Walker. This award recognizes this group's efforts to arrange the annual fund raiser party at the CUH Plant Sale and the financial support this event provides as it draws clients to the sale. The award is given in special recognition for "above and beyond" service that has significantly helped the Foundation achieve its mission to support the program. As a driving force behind many, if not most, of the King County Master Gardener party events, this group has shown unwavering dedication to making each event unforgettable and enjoyable and a unique ability to attract celebrity chefs and caterers willing to share the limelight with Ciscoe Morris at the CUH sale.

**Special Recognition Award to the 2018 Work 'n Learn Leaders** in planning and presenting experiences in the Master Gardener demo gardens in February for 90+ interns, fulfilling roles as leaders and educators with an enthusiastic willingness and intention to create memorable experiences for our interns.

**Bellevue Demo Garden Team:** Bruce Caredio (Leader), Alison Johnson, Barbara Picat, Wendy Fawcett, Suzi O'Byrne, Dahmane Thami, Tiffany Stilwater

**Cesar Chavez Demo Garden Team:** Sue Williams (Leader), Mick Duggan, Rose Tobin

**Neely Mansion Demo Garden Team:** Carol Grimes (Leader), Diane Johnson, Linda Peterson, Sharon Englund, Don Homer

**Soos Creek Demo Garden Team:** Nancy Purcell (Leader), Pat Surr, Jean Rogers, Stephanie Young, Marina Salcedo, Elizabeth Geppert, Bree Kauzlarich and non-MGs Janet Hughes, Paul Welch, Robin Welch and Ken Takemura

**Thyme Patch Park Demo Garden:** Penny Kriese (Leader)

**Tribal Life Wilderness Trail Demo Garden:** Ankie Stroes (Leader), Ellie Hollenbeck, Helen Pelton

**Bothell Children's Garden:** Sharon O'Grady (Leader), Alison Johnson (co-Leader), Beth Robinson, Charlotte Stuyvenberg, Sandra Booren, Kasia Kurek-Moore, Ruth O'Brien and non-MG Rick O'Brien

**Shorewood High School Culinary Arts Garden:** Bonnie Chester (Leader), Lee Keim, Judy Broom