

The Dirt

The Newsletter of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County



October 2015

A Note from Our President, Dave Hanower



The Master Gardener Foundation of King County continues to look for ways to improve our outreach within our Master Gardener community, as well as to the general public.

After much discussion, the Board of Directors approved hiring a community relations coordinator, Michelle Roedell, earlier this summer.

Michelle is off to a great start, and has been in contact with a wide cross-section of Master Gardeners to discuss how we can improve our communications and outreach.

We invite you to share your thoughts by contacting Michelle: michelle@northwestprimetime.com.

If you are interested in working on communications, please contact Penny Kriese pckriese@gmail.com or me, Dave Hanower: president@mgfkc.org

Michelle recommended that we publish an on-line monthly e-newsletter to keep our Master Gardeners up to date on what's happening at the Foundation. *The Foundation Connection* began publication in July. We hope that you are enjoying this new e-newsletter. If you have any suggestions for articles, please send us an e-mail: communicate@mgfkc.org

Now that *The Foundation Connection* is up and running, we have decided to discontinue *The Dirt*; this is our last edition.

I want to thank Anne Ellett; Cecilia McGowan and Marty Byrne for their work editing this quarterly newsletter for the past three years.

Best,
Dave

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2016 Autumn Plant Sale by Gordon Polson

Why another plant sale?

Autumn is generally recognized as THE time to plant bulbs & perennials. It's also when nurseries are unloading their stock at sale prices. Obviously a serendipitous situation for Master Gardeners: why not host an autumn plant sale? Holding the sale on the east side would give that burgeoning population an opportunity to buy plants at just the right time and pick up tips for fall and winter gardening. We're starting the planning a year in advance so we can be ready for Autumn 2016.

Location?

We chose the Bellevue Botanic Gardens as the site for the sale. Their newly constructed facilities include three classrooms and partially covered concrete walkways on which stands could be erected. The gardens are delightful and also partially newly constructed – with the newer parts coming into full growth by the time we have the sale.

When?

We elected to go with **September 24th, 2016**, to avoid competing with football and other early fall events.

Activities?

Originally we hoped that Master Gardeners would help by growing plants that could be offered at the sale, and we've offered one propagation class with this in mind. We're looking for a suitable venue to hold additional classes.

Apart from the obvious goal of selling plants, we propose to offer talks geared to plants, vegetables, and bulbs suitable for autumn, winter, and spring, presented by well-known authors and personalities. Another suggestion we are considering instead of speakers is to have these well-known authors and personalities circulate, providing plant selection advice to shoppers.



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Entertainment?

We are considering a few groups to offer musical entertainment. We have some ideas and suggestions but have not settled on anything yet.

Refreshment?

Bellevue Botanical Gardens staff suggested that we work with their own refreshment provider who is already approved for the site. He does sell from a very limited menu so we will work with him to see if we can persuade him to increase his offerings for that day. We considered other options, like craft beers and ciders and food trucks, but Bellevue by-laws and health department paperwork presented some barriers.

Workers?

At the moment, Beverly van Hartesvelt and I are working on the scheme, but we hope that current Plant Sale Committee members will reprise their Spring Sale jobs to help us through the first of what we hope will become an annual event. As our plans develop we will welcome the help of our Master Gardener community.

Intent?

We want to establish an annual event on the east side to provide information and plants to east side gardeners. This sale would also help gardeners include bulbs and perennials in their gardening plans. We will keep the Master Gardener community informed as our plans progress.

‘WE CLING TO OUR OWN POINT OF VIEW, AS THOUGH EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON IT. YET OUR OPINIONS HAVE NO PERMANENCE; LIKE AUTUMN AND WINTER, THEY GRADUALLY PASS AWAY.’

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You Too Can Design by Jane Garrison

Did you ever look at a gardening magazine and think, 'My yard looks better than that!' Then you realize that they are in the *magazine*, and you are not. You question your own sense of aesthetics. Even though you wonder how such an odd arrangement could be touted in a national garden design publication you realize that design is completely subjective. This realization gives you wild and crazy freedom to do whatever in your own yard.

Forget all the rules. Well, I take that back. Remember "Right Plant-Right Place," but forget the artistic part. I have come to the conclusion that if you love your yard, care for your plants, use and maintain your outdoor space, and look out for the environment and habitat, your garden will design itself. It will be beautiful.

Don't be afraid to express yourself. We are all designers in our own ways. Wouldn't it be horrible if all yards were professionally designed? Think about it. Just love your yard, and who knows; you may see it in the next issue of a national gardening publication.

Future Foundation Meetings

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

Thursday, November 12, 7 PM to 8:30PM, CUH

Thursday, December 10, 7 PM to 8:30PM, CUH



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Last Issue of *The Dirt*

You have probably received and read the new monthly newsletter, *The Foundation Connection*, and wondered – why two newsletters? *The Connection* was started primarily for communication about the Master Gardener program to audiences both within our Master Gardener membership and the community at large. It does this by recognition of the Master Gardeners and spotlighting our clinics and gardens. *The Dirt's* mission has been to communicate to our members news and information from the Foundation board. After much discussion it was agreed that resources should be pooled and both missions accomplished through the monthly newsletter, *The Connection*. So, this will be the final publication of *The Dirt*.

Our first issue of *The Dirt* was in 2013. It has been a fun, and we hope you have enjoyed it. Many thanks to Cecilia McGowan, our publication and creative leader; and Marty Byrne and Anne Ellett, our editors and article contributors, for their years of effort to produce our great newsletter.

Watch for future Foundation news and information in upcoming issues of *The Connection*.



Thank you for your support and comments!

**Anne Ellett
Cecilia McGowan
Marty Byrne**