

2016 Master Gardener Recognition Honors

Tom Church, a Master Gardener in the Federal Way and Auburn Farmers Market Clinics is recognized for his efforts to establish a Master Gardener education group in south King County. Tom recognized the need to organize an effort to offer MGs CE opportunities in this area of the county to make it easier for South King County MGs to earn the required CE hours. The result of his efforts is the 2016 Pests and Plants Full Day Workshop at the Renton Technical College on November 19.

Marcia Dillon and Traci Hanna are recognized as the organizers of the spring plant sale at the Bellevue Demo Garden. Coordinating seed planting and transplanting teams for tomatoes, peppers and other edible starts was very successful. The results were plants sold not only at BDG but also at the annual spring plant sale at CUH in May. They also organized the first fall plant sale at BDG, part of the annual Harvest Festival. In addition to devoting hours to organizing these events, they each manage beds at BDG. Marcia is part of the Master Gardener Bureau group, sharing her knowledge of tomatoes in the BDG workshops and with various groups. Traci co-manages a bed with Sue Hall and produces award-winning lettuces.

Linda Heaney of the CUH Clinic is recognized for creating that clinic's continuing education program, developing the list of speakers, organizing and facilitating the monthly learning sessions. The programs are led by clinic members, fostering a spirit of community and camaraderie among that clinic's members. The members are encouraged to use samples and work with university and online resources to build their knowledge and confidence in sharing what they learn.

Carrie Hill is a clinic leader for the West Seattle Farmers Market and McClendon's clinics. Although still an intern herself, Carrie has provided invaluable support to the Burien and Library and Furney's Nursery clinics as well. Carrie attends many of the West Seattle clinic shifts in person, mentoring other volunteers and ensuring its smooth operation. In the Burien Clinic, Carrie partners with the CIC to gauge the effectiveness of the clinic resources, developing recommendations for new resources. Carrie served as a mentor in 2016 for 14 new Master Gardener interns and continues to maintain contact with those interns, encouraging them and providing added information. Significantly, in 2016 Carrie took on the task of comparing the WSU factsheets with the King County fact sheets in an effort to deliver up-to-date, accurate and consistent information. These efforts will be shared across the county.

James Little is a member of the University District Farmers Market, serving as the CIC. A technical wizard, Jim has created an app that makes Factsheets, gardening websites, diagnostic reports and Extension bulletins searchable online. As the clinic scheduler, he has posted the schedule to the clinic's website to make it easier to track. A retired doctor, Jim's colleagues say he is a joy to work with, resourceful and devoted to the Master Gardener message, encourage all to share information digitally.

Gordon Polson, a Foundation Board member and part of the Mercer Island Clinic, is also a propagation expert. Gordon shares his propagation skills by hosting classes for Master Gardeners. He initiated the recent fall plant sale at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, and works regularly at the spring plant sale. His cohorts say he is a great sport and so much fun to work with, exemplifying the best in community volunteerism – with the most amazing hat!

Debi Quirk is a major player in the Magnuson Children's Garden and Nature Programs. Debi is involved in all types of public education, presented to the trainees in 2016, helped lead stewardship events, school field trips and summer camps. Debi is also a volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House garden, giving generously of her time. She is an excellent ambassador for the Master Gardener program to community volunteers, nature program staff and parents, raising public awareness and respect for the Master Gardener program in King County.

Jean Wang has been a key member of the Bellevue Demonstration Garden for 20 years. Exceptionally knowledgeable about plants, Jean share information and mentors many of the BDG volunteers and visitors to the garden. Jean manages the Asian beds at BDG. Jean is an excellent role model for life long learning, providing a very positive impression of the program.

The Foundation Award

This 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. In 2016 the Foundation Award is being presented to Horst Momber for his 7-year leadership of the annual spring plant sale. Horst has enthusiastically directed this annual 3-day event and its nearly 400 volunteers with plant sales of more than \$78,000 each year. Horst has a perpetually supportive, cheerful and encouraging nature that draws Master Gardeners to participate in the Plant Sale. In addition, he encourages Master Gardeners to use their special skills and abilities in ways that are most interesting to them, and encourages all to get involved with the sale. The Foundation is privileged to be able to honor Horst with this award, considering him to be a "master of the garden."