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## The Foundation Connection

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

### September 2017 Issue



### Renton Farmers Market & Fairwood Library Clinics: Spreading the Gardening Word

...by Master Gardener Marty Byrne

Master Gardeners in the Renton area reach home gardeners from multiple sites. Clinic Leader Anne Ellett describes two of them.

[Read the full article](#)

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## Ellen A'Key Grant 2017 Winner: *Skagit County Master Gardeners*

*...by Master Gardener Bob Connor*

The A'Key Grant Committee chose the Skagit County Master Gardeners' proposal to reach the Latino community as this year's winner. Their entry describes an outreach approach that will solicit the community's needs and develop strategies to meet those needs.

[Read the full article](#)



### **Master Gardener Gordon Polson: Gardening My Way from England to America**

*...by Master Gardener Gordon Polson*

As a boy, MG Gordon Polson rode on his dad's bicycle crossbar to help in the garden. He's been at it ever since, learning about propagation and sharing gardening knowledge.

[Read the full article](#)



### **Master Gardener Picnic: Food, Fun, and Community-Building**

*...by Master Gardener Gary Scheider*

If you were among the 180 or so Master Gardeners who attended the first MGFKC-sponsored Master Gardener Picnic, you know what we mean. Many of us, from all corners of the Program, gathered at William Grassie Wine Estates near Fall City on a very warm and sunny late August Sunday afternoon to renew and build new friendships. All this was made easier with the abundant food provided by the Foundation and the many who joined us and brought some delicious potluck items to round out a very, very big meal.

We are glad that so many Master Gardeners and their families and friends decided to join us at this rather remote but beautiful location. We're grateful that you felt it important to help build community in our large organization. Whenever we see so many Master Gardeners gathering for an event, we're always certain that new relationships are being built and old ones enhanced. We are so much more than simply a group of 35 or so clinics.

On behalf of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County and the MG

Program, thank you to everyone for their support this past year. You can expect to us to sponsor and support more events like this in the future.

Visit our [Facebook](#) page to see more photos. No need to join Facebook to view.

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## Bellevue Demonstration Garden Harvest Festival!

Come and celebrate the end of another successful season at Bellevue Demonstration Garden. This year's BDG Harvest Festival is Saturday, September 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Festival will include the annual tomato tasting, along with pepper tasting this year. The Festival will also feature a craft sale of handcrafted garden items, and a "shabby chic"

corner. Come and get ideas for your garden produce; create your own herb salts. There will be several demonstrations, including saving seeds and concrete leaf casting. Visit the plant sale to select desirable and healthy plants, such as heuchera, hydrangea, ornamental grasses, rose of Sharon, dogwood and much, much more. Bring the children and enjoy the Children's Garden and activities. Listen to live music, visit with a Master Gardener, shop, and learn. The details are [here](#). You can locate the BDG using the [Map of King County Clinics and Gardens](#).

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## Master Gardener Foundation Fall Sale & Speakers

The second annual MGF Fall Sale & Speakers is happening Saturday, September 23, 2017, at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Come and enjoy a full slate of speakers and browse the offerings

from local specialty nurseries.

Speakers include:

Richie Steffen, *Form, Foliage and Fragrance: Beautiful Plants for the Autumn Garden*; Phil Bennett, *Five Small Trees for Puget Sound Gardens*; Jessi Bloom, *Incredible Edibles*; and Bill Thorness, *Year Round Vegetable Gardening*. Master Gardeners earn four hours of continuing education (CE) credit by attending all sessions.

Several local nurseries, including Chimacum Woods, Dancing Oaks, and Lee Farm, will have plants for sale. The Sammamish String Quartet will provide music during lunch.

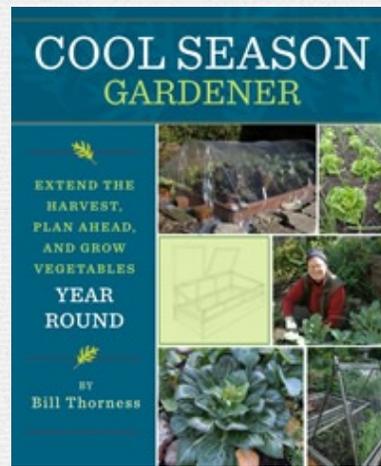
You'll find more information about this event [here](#), including how Master Gardeners can also earn public-contact hours by volunteering. You can register for the speakers and order a box lunch [here](#). Don't miss it!

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

### *Cool Season Gardener: Extend the Harvest, Plan Ahead, and Grow Vegetables Year Round*

We don't have to stop gardening after we harvest summer produce. Author Bill Thorness offers some different concepts to consider to extend the growing season all year. Thorness will be a featured speaker at the Cool Plants, Hot Topics event at Bellevue Botanical Garden later this month.



[Read the full article](#)



### **News Shoots: *Short Subjects***

#### **Master Gardener Program Applications for**

**Training:** Applications are now available for our 2018 training. In case you haven't heard, training will be on Saturdays and will take place at the Burien Community Center. If you have friends living in the south end of our county who'd like to become Master Gardeners, but would rather have a root canal than drive through Seattle, tell them not to miss this opportunity to join our

program. Training will begin on January 13, 2018, and end on March 31, 2018. Details are in the application, which is available at [kingcountymg.org](http://kingcountymg.org), or by requesting one from me, [elaine.anderson@wsu.edu](mailto:elaine.anderson@wsu.edu).

#### **Nominations for Outstanding Master Gardeners 2017:**

Remember all the fun we had at last year's First Annual Recognition Celebration and Breakfast? You'll be happy to know that we are doing the same thing this year, on October 21, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Guest speaker details and sign-up will be revealed soon. We'll also have our yearly update on the Board's activities and a preview of what they have planned for us next year!

This event spotlights Master Gardeners who have gone above and beyond their routine duties and responsibilities. These volunteers will be nominated by you, their peers. [Guidelines for nominations and nomination forms](#) are available online or from me, [elaine.anderson@wsu.edu](mailto:elaine.anderson@wsu.edu).

*Submitted by Master Gardener Program Coordinator Elaine Anderson*

**Piper's Orchard Festival of Fruit:** The 11th Annual Piper's Orchard Festival of Fruit, presented by the Friends of Piper's Orchard, is September 16th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Carkeek Park. Master Gardeners will answer gardening questions and provide activities for kids in the Education Center. Other activities in the Education Center include cider pressing demonstrations, live music by Blue Star Creeper, and an apple pie contest. In Piper's Orchard, visitors can tour the orchard, view an art installation, and taste different apple varieties. Find

## Don't Check Your Skills at the Door!

*We can find a use for them*

## Can You Help??



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

- **Communications** is searching for writers to contribute articles of interest to MGs, short subjects, editing and working with our online template.

Much of the important work of our Foundation is handled by our 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? Contact us if you are interested or want to find out more.

[Read about our needs](#)

## What's Happening?

### *News and Updates*

- [Next MGF Board Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 14](#), at Bothell Children's Garden, 18515 92nd Avenue NE, Bothell. Garden tour begins at 6:30PM, meeting follows.
- [Sept. 9, 10PM to 1PM](#) at Bellevue Demo Garden: [Fall Harvest Festival & Plant Sale](#).
- [Sept. 16, 10AM to 2PM](#) at Carkeek Park: [Piper's Orchard Festival of Fruit](#).
- [Sept. 23, 9:30AM to 4PM](#) at Bellevue Botanical Garden: [Cool Plants & Hot Topics Fall Plant Sale & Speakers](#). [Register for speakers](#). [Volunteer](#) to help.
- [Oct. 21, 9:00AM to 12 noon](#) at CUH: [2017 Recognition Celebration](#)



### Staying Smart - CE Opportunities

- [Sept. 16, Sat, 10AM, BDG](#): Rain Gardens & Storm Water Runoff, MG Lisa Haglund.
- [Sept. 20, Wed 7PM, Sammamish KC Library](#): Fall is the Perfect time to Plan Next Year's Garden.
- [Sept. 20-23, Yakima, WA](#): [WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference](#).
- [Sep 23, Sat 9:30-4PM, Bellevue Botanical Garden](#): [Cool Plants & Hot Topics](#) speakers. [Register](#).
- [Sept. 30, Sat 10AM, BDG](#): Growing Garlic, MG Lory Armitage.
- [Nov. 18](#), Epic Battle of Plants, the Renton Tech all-day MG CE workshop. Watch your email for the opportunity to register. [Here's the flyer](#).

**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@mgfk.org](mailto:secretary@mgfk.org).

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