

## 2017 Master Gardener Recognition Honors

**Suzanne Abbott** is a member of the Burien Clinic and, as a second-year Intern, became the Clinic Information Coordinator (CIC). Suzanne worked to make the clinic resources easier to use, quicker to find and simpler to store by restructuring and improving the clinic's materials. As an experienced graphic designer, Suzanne used her skills to create professional looking signage to draw clients to the clinic tables. Suzanne analyzes the clinic data gathered through the clinic activity reports to better understand the community the clinic serves and how to respond to their needs. When in 2017 the clinic's Furney's Nursery location closed, Suzanne played a key role in researching alternative clinic locations and helping choose and relocate to the new Des Moines Farmers Market location. Suzanne is generous with her time and skills in several KCMG projects, providing constructive counsel with a positive outlook and rising to the challenge. She demonstrates her dedication to the Master Gardener Program, clinic members and clients in her various roles, always looking to raise expectations and employing laughter and camaraderie to improve the program and push us all to be exceptional Master Gardeners.

**Anne Ellett** is the clinic leader for the Renton Fairwood Library and Renton Farmers Market clinics. Anne continued in her role as clinic leader even as she stepped into the job of President of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County in 2016. With incredible dedication, Anne handled both jobs with professionalism and ease. She is approachable, personable, knowledgeable and leads by example. Anne took on the clinic leadership when others were unwilling. She is calm and articulate during sometimes stressful moments in meetings, a trait much appreciated. Her clinic says she is like their very own EF Hutton: when she speaks, people listen!

**Wendy Fawcett** is being recognized by the two groups with which she worked in 2017, the Perennials Department of the CUH Plant Sale and the Bellevue Demonstration Garden. She has a can-do attitude shown in the sheer number of hours spent curating the plant collection at BDG, organizing the CUH Potting Party, cataloging materials, time and people for that event and generally lending a hand wherever she could help. They say she never stops moving and can even tease plants back from the edge when left in her care. At BDG Wendy is the backbone of their plant sale, thinking of new ways to engage the public and get them to spend on just one more plant to take home. Her plant knowledge is amazing, her own private garden is readily shared, she is a very positive influence in the garden and in the Program. Seeing her in action makes you realize she is a force of nature, so dedicated to the garden, the plants and the people and still able to learn and share her knowledge with all, showing how to make the Master Gardener Program a friendly, nurturing and welcoming place.

**Dori Wright** is a member of the Ballard Fred Meyer clinic and has been a Master Gardener since 1992, celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2017. Over the years Dori has worked in over fifteen clinics. She is a wealth of information, "a gem of a person as well as an outstanding gardener" according to her clinic members. Dori's longevity in the program is a reason for us all to think long term. She rarely slows down, continues to be inspired and to inspire. Dori shares her knowledge in a way that never makes you feel uncomfortable asking a question. She often invites fellow Master Gardeners to visit her garden to ask questions, share plants and advice. She loves to tour and has organized garden tours for Master Gardener groups that are social, fun and provide learning and an opportunity to network with other Master Gardeners. Dori has developed her own Vegetable Problem Management Chart, dutifully logging her findings and sharing ideas about companion plantings, pests and pest predators. She is working with fellow MG Sue Kraemer to create a web instruction/information tool to continue to share her knowledge.

### **The Master Gardener Foundation Awards**

The following awards were created by the Foundation Board in 2015 to expand recognition for those Master Gardeners and Foundation members who by example go beyond their responsibilities as Master Gardener leaders in order to either aid the Foundation in its fundraising mission or expand the educational impact of program activities in King County.

#### **The President's Award**

This award is presented to an individual Master Gardener or group of Master Gardeners whose work on a specific project or program in the last year has helped to "provide education and information on horticulture to the citizens of King County."

In 2017 the President's Award is being presented to the South Sound Education Group of Tom Church, Maggie Greenslit, Marilyn Holm, Lisa Marahrens, John Skidmore, and Lynne Skidmore for their 2016 and 2017 Renton continuing education events. This group of individuals, led by Tom Church, came up with the idea for a day-long event that would be open to all King County Master Gardeners, conveniently held in the south sound area for Master Gardeners who are farther from our CUH center here, and held after most clinics and gardens closed for the gardening season. The group identified and contacted qualified speakers, found the location, publicized and promoted the event, registered attendees, evaluated the event and, in general, displayed initiative and 'doggedness' in follow-through. The first event in 2016 was very successful and the planned 2017 event has already sold out. Their attention to detail from planning, budget and follow-up report makes this event one the Foundation hopes to replicate in the future. Thank you for your hard work and lasting impact on the WSU Extension Program's education program in King County.

#### **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 2017 the Foundation Award is being presented to Carrie Hill for her continuing efforts as a Foundation Board Director, Clinics Committee member and Clinic Leader. After completing the MG program training in 2014, Carrie became a clinic member and then clinic leader of the West Seattle clinic. In 2016 and 2017, Carrie was a mentor in the program training. In 2016, on her own initiative, Carrie reviewed the existing clinic handouts in order to offer suggestions to update clinics resources, bring them in alignment with the most current WSU resources, and help the King County program to meet the WSU mission to provide up-to-date research-based information. Carrie focused her efforts on reviewing the 68 fact sheets that benefited Puget Sound Master Gardeners but had not been updated in over a decade. As a result, Carrie created new resource kits based on the most current WSU findings and reflecting up-to-date materials from WSU, and provided training and follow-up in using the materials. With the Board's backing, she then engaged the Master Gardener community in rewriting the most popular fact sheets, renaming them tip sheets so as not to confuse them with WSU fact sheets, and she continues working on this project.

Carrie also created the Sharing Success presentation board for the King County Program presented at the WSMGF convention in Yakima to showcase the Program's outreach activities in the county. She continues her engagement in the Program and Foundation, now as President-Elect of the Foundation Board, and working with the Board on WSU-related projects, especially in our training and recruitment programs. The Foundation would like to recognize Carrie's leadership in and support for the Master Gardener program, especially in King County, and her continuing participation in the Program as a mentor and her work to support better communication between the Foundation and the Program.