



## The Foundation Connection

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

January 2019 Issue



*Happy New Gardening Year!*



King County

Master Gardener Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

### **The Times They are a-Changin' (with apologies to Bob Dylan): Re-evaluating Our Master Gardener Plant Clinic Processes**

*...by Master Gardener Jim Olson*

The Foundation Board Clinics Committee has been hard at work most of this year reviewing clinic activity and practices. MG Jim Olson provides an update of the progress so far.

[Read more](#)

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***Extend Your Resources***

#### **In This Issue**

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[2019 Master Gardener CUH Plant Sale: Seasons of Change](#)

[The Gadabout Gardener Goes Victorian: Bunkers, Bluffs, and Rain Gardens](#)

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# Epsom Salt Use in Home Gardens

WASHINGTON STATE  
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Linda Chalker-Scott, Associate Professor and Extension Horticulturist, WSU Puget Sound Research and Extension Center, Washington State University, and Rich Guggenheim, Horticulture Extension Educator, Canyon County Extension, University of Idaho



## and Landscapes: *What's True, What's Not*

The purported uses for Epsom salt in the garden abound. Which ones actually work and which don't? This recently published article by Linda Chalker-

Scott from WSU Extension describes the composition of Epsom salt, its role in the garden, which uses are beneficial and which uses may be harmful. The article also includes recommendations for home gardeners because Epsom salt really does have a role in the garden.

[Read more](#)



## 2019 Master Gardener CUH Plant Sale: *Seasons of Change*

...by Master Gardener and Plant Sale Lead Gary Scheider

The Spring Plant Sale continues to evolve as the Plant Sale team looks for new ways to keep the sale vibrant and appealing to the community of gardeners in King County. Plant Sale Lead Gary Scheider highlights some of the changes for 2019.

[Read more](#)



*Arbutus menziesii*

## The Gadabout Gardener Goes Victorian: *Bunkers, Bluffs, and Rain Gardens*

...by Master Gardener Bruce Bennett

[Resources](#)

[News & Updates](#)

**Quick Links**

[MGFKC](#)

[King County MG](#)

[Growing Groceries 2.0](#)

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State](#)

**Of Interest to You**

### Continuing Education

Learning takes place in many ways, and the Program is offering more ways to learn than ever before. [Find CE opportunities](#)

### Tip Sheets for KC

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening [Garden Tips](#)

### WHERE am I?

Find King County Master Gardener **clinics** and **garden** locations using the [MGFKC map](#).

The Gadabout Gardener describes his most recent volunteer opportunity in Port Townsend, Washington. This delightful sojourn included rain gardens, hikes, plant talks, music, and theater and the largest *Arbutus menziesii* he'd ever seen.

[Read more](#)

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## Remembering Steve Walker: *The Gardenfather*



*Master Gardener  
Steve Walker*

Master Gardener Steve Walker, the "gardenfather" of the Bellevue

Demonstration Garden (BDG), passed away

December 15, 2018. Steve

joined the Master Gardener Program in 1986,

working with Master Gardener George Pinyuh to

develop the BDG. Steve became the BDG leader in

1988.

Steve contributed to the Master Gardener Program and Foundation in other ways. He was nominated for Master Gardener of the Year in 2004, named an Outstanding Master Gardener in 2014, and was recognized for giving 4000 hours of service to the MG Program. Steve was a past president of the MG Foundation Board. He also chaired the MGF Plant Sale at one time.

BDG Master Gardeners will recall numerous anecdotes that illustrate Steve's dedication to the BDG: attending most of the Wednesday work parties and Saturday CE sessions; conducting garden business by phone during a hospital recuperation; just "being there."

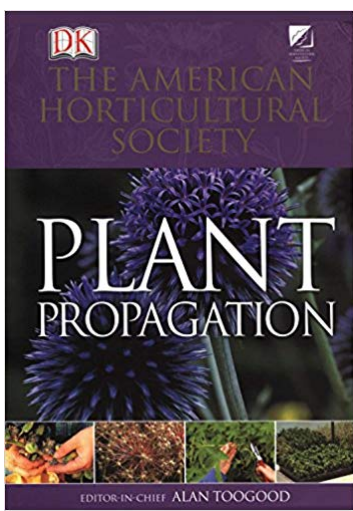
Steve Walker was profiled in the [January 2016 Foundation Connection](#). BDG Master Gardeners will miss his presence, remembering him as they pass by the annuals bed, his special responsibility, near the BDG entrance.

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## *Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection*

### **Go-To Garden Resources: *Favorite Plant Propagation Books***

So many books, so little time. That's as true of gardening books as of any other genre. Master



Gardener Gordon Polson presents his favorite resources for plant propagation, a subject he knows a lot about. All are available for loan at the Miller Library.

[Read more](#)

## News & Updates

### *What's Happening & When*

#### [MGF Board Meetings:](#)

No Board meeting in January. The February Board meeting is an off-site planning meeting, TBD. Interested in attending? Contact Carrie at [president@mgfkc.org](mailto:president@mgfkc.org).



**2019 KCMG Training Classes.** Classes for new trainees who have been accepted will begin **Saturday, Jan. 12** at CUH. Some classes will be open to other MGs and may be used for CE credits. You may be asked to pre-register to ensure there is space. Watch for the classes announcement via email for topics, times, and speakers.

### *Staying Smart -- Save the Dates!*

#### **January 2019 [Growing Groceries Classes.](#)**

Classes are at The Grange, 145 NE Gilman Blvd., Issaquah, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Visit the [webpage](#) for more information. If you registered, we thank you! Please remember to attend. Registration is now closed. Please contact [GrowingGroceries.King@gmail.com](mailto:GrowingGroceries.King@gmail.com) to be placed on the waiting list or to let us know if you cannot attend so that we can offer your seat to someone else.

**January 9: *Growing Groceries 2.0 - Planning and Garden Design.*** Topics include location, timing, spacing, crop rotation, succession planting, and the value of a garden notebook.

**January 30: *Growing Groceries 2.0 - Small Fruit and Other Perennials.*** Topics include strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, artichokes, rhubarb, asparagus, and herbs.

[Snoqualmie Valley Library Talks:](#) Open to the public at both the Sammamish and North Bend Libraries

starting January 19.

### ***More Events and Dates ...***

**January-April, 2019:** [Snohomish Annual Winter Speaker Series](#), first Friday of the month in Lynnwood. See the website for costs and dates.

**March 2, 2019:** [Whidbey Gardening Workshop](#). Registration opens Jan. 13. See the website for costs and schedule.

**June 17-21, 2019:** [International Master Gardener Conference](#) in Valley Forge. Registration open.

### [Bellevue Botanical Garden Classes and Lectures](#)

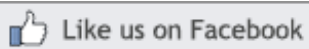
***2019 King County MG CUH Plant Sale:*** April 26 & 27 at CUH (*Note new dates*)

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Do you have an event or CE opportunity to share? Submit items to consider for our list of announcements to [communicate@mgfkc.org](mailto:communicate@mgfkc.org).

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**Stay Connected:**



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