



The Foundation Connection

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

January 2020 Issue



Happy New Year!

Contributing to The Connection

Do you have an event, class, or workshop to publicize in our News & Updates? An article to submit? An article idea to pitch? Please see our contribution guidelines [here](#)

New Master Gardener Program Leadership: Meet Mary Watts

...by Master Gardener Marty Byrne



All of two months into the job, Mary Watts takes a break to share a bit of her background as a gardener.

[Read more](#)

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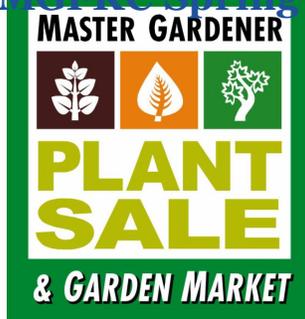
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[Become a Master](#)

MGFKC Spring Plant Sale and Garden Gala: Get Ready, Save the Date!



...by Master Gardeners
Gary Scheider and
Christina Cartledge

Get Ready!

Mark your calendars: The 36th annual MGFKC Spring Plant Sale at the Center for Urban Horticulture is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25, 2020. This event is the Foundation's largest fundraiser and generates the largest portion of the income required to help us run the Master Gardener Program in King County.

We are developing several additions to the Sale this year. You'll be hearing much more about these in the next few issues of the newsletter, on the MGFKC website, and through special emails. Our planning team has been very busy since the last sale.

In 2020, we'll host a new Houseplants Section, something we've wanted to do for a few years due to the enormous demand for houseplants. We will also host a small section of special and unusual flowering annuals, grown at the Bellevue Demonstration Garden. If you would like to help lead either of these new sections, please contact Gary Scheider, the Chair of the Plant Sale, at communicate@mgfkf.org.

Save the Date!

Join us for Splendor in the Garden, the 2020 Plant Sale Gala on Friday, April 24, 2020, at the Center for Urban Horticulture. The evening will feature delicious hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer offerings, Silent Auction and door prizes. Listen to Plant Talks, featuring very special guests Daniel J. Hinkley, Richie Steffen, and Ciscoe Morris. This event is a fundraiser for the Master Gardener Foundation.



The Gadabout Gardener: Visiting (Plant) Paradise

...by Master Gardener
Bruce Bennett

Are you already thinking about changes you may want to make in your garden and landscape come spring? Perhaps try a perennial

[Gardener](#)

[WSU Volunteer Database](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

Staying Smart

[Growing Groceries 2019-2020](#)

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](#)

Volunteer Now!

 SIGN UP!

 SignUpGenius®

WHERE am I?

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



You can donate .5% of your purchase to the Foundation when you use [AmazonSmile](#).
Thank You.

Make a Difference!
DONATE

or two you don't already have? More color in the shade? In the first of two parts, Master Gardener Bruce Bennett reports on nurseries out of our immediate area that are worth a road trip.

[Read more](#)



**January:
What is There to
Do?**

...by Master Gardener

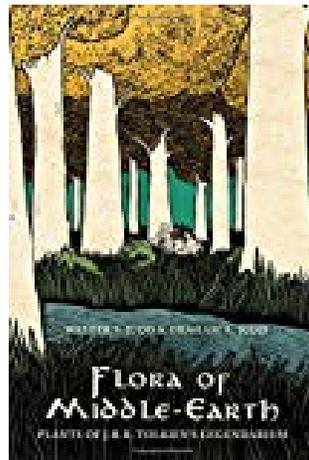
Gordon Polson

The weather outside your window may be blustery and--dare we say it--snowy, but gardeners never lack for things to do. MG Gordon Polson suggests some activities for January.

[Read more](#)

***Elisabeth C. Miller
Library Selection***

***Flora of Middle
Earth: Plants of
J.R.R.Tolkien's
Legendarium***



How about a little fantasy to take your mind off the north wind blowing? Tolkien meticulously created a complete, imaginary but realistic landscape for his books set in Middle Earth. Enjoy a wander while we wait for spring.

[Read more](#)



News Shoots: *Short Subjects*

***Reminder about 2020 Master
Gardener Recertification***

The deadline for submitting your annual Master Gardener recertification has passed:

December 31, 2019. However, for a short period of time, if you have not yet submitted your reapplication, you can ensure that you can continue in the Program

by completing your application [here](#). If you have questions, please contact Penny Kriese at penny.kriese@wsu.edu

We Need You and Your Creativity!

Specifically, we need Silent Auction gift items for the Spring Plant Sale Gala fundraising event on Friday evening, April 24, 2020. This year's theme is *Splendor in the Garden*. We invite all King County MG Clinics to use their creative talents to donate unique, fun, and appealing gifts. Last year's clinic gift items were a rousing success and generated over \$2,000. Use your imagination, collaborate with your clinic members, and let your creativity flourish. All proceeds help support the Master Gardener programs in King County. Donation deadline is April 17, 2020. For more information, please contact Gala Co-Chair Cristina Cartledge at communicate@mgfkc.org.

Help Needed: We are seeking 1 to 3 individuals who will work with the Chair of the Plant Sale to locate plant boxes for our guests to use as they gather their plants for purchase. Please reach out to Gary Scheider at communicate@mgfkc.org if you can spare 8 to 12 hours of work to develop and carry out a plan to obtain donated boxes from various businesses, primarily nurseries.

Master Fruit Tree Stewardship Applications:

City Fruit's Master Fruit Tree Stewardship classes prepare community members to grow, cultivate and care for fruit trees in the greater Seattle community. This series of workshops combines classroom and urban orchard experiences to gain skills in identifying, planting, pruning, harvesting and sharing fruit from local fruit trees. There may still be a limited number of openings available. Please review the program description and the participant expectations at the City Fruit [website](#).

What I like about the Master Gardener Program

Why did you become a Master Gardener? What do you especially like about the Program? Share your thoughts at communicate@mgfkc.org. You may see them in a future *Connection!*

News & Updates

What's Happening & When

Next MGF Board Meeting:

January 2020: Board Planning retreat



January Growing Groceries classes.

El Centro de la Raza, Beacon Hill,

January 7, Tuesday-Soil #2 /

Composting: Interpret your soil test results. Learn about composting, touted as a miracle worker in the garden.

January 28, Tuesday-Container and Small-space Gardening; Onion Family: Learn how to grow more food in containers and limited spaces. Start onions and leeks from seeds this month.

The Grange in Issaquah,

January 8, Wednesday-Planning and Garden

Design: where and when, spacing, timing, crop rotation for fertility and pest avoidance, succession planning, the value of a garden notebook.

January 29, Wednesday-Cabbage and Beet Families:

Brassicas include broccoli, cauliflower, kale, cabbage, arugula, mustard, rutabaga, turnips, collards, radishes, Brussels sprouts. Chenopods include beets, Swiss chard, spinach.

Visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration.

February 15, 2020-Saturday: PlantAmnesty

Prune-a-thon 2020.

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sky Nursery in Shoreline.

Information and registration

[here](#)

More Events and Dates . . .

[UW Botanical Garden classes and workshops](#)

Future File

February 15, 2020-Saturday:

Soil, Food Production, and Climate Change. 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Chief Kanim Middle School, Fall City. Speakers include Anne Biklé, Dr. David Montgomery, and Chad Kruger (NW Washington Research & Extension Center). Watch your email and future issues of *The Connection* for more information and registration.

March 28, 2020-Saturday: Master Gardener Spring

Continuing Education, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Watch your email and future issues of *The Connection* for details, speakers, registration.

October 1 to 3, 2020:

[WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education](#)

[Conference,](#) Port Townsend. Conference registration opens April 1, 2020. Note: Camp/RV reservations

open January 2, 2020; on-site lodging reservations open January 2, 2020.

Contributing to The Connection

Do you have an event or CE opportunity to share? An article of interest to Master Gardeners? Deadline for announcements or article submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication (ex: May 15 for the June edition). For more information or to submit items for consideration, please contact us at

communicate@mgfkc.org

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