



The Foundation Connection

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

February 2021 Issue



2021 Master Gardener Advanced Training: *Reload, Refresh, Rekindle, Required*



...by the Master Gardener Clinic Leadership Team

Our lives have been disrupted these past 11 months, and Master Gardener Program activities have been no exception. While the path and timing are unclear, we hope to return to as much in-person engagement as possible in 2021 for our 600+ Master Gardeners in King County. We're aware that we all miss our relationships with one another and look forward to sharing our skills again with our communities.

It's no surprise that most of us feel a little disconnected from our tools, too, and even a bit rusty with skills and resources. The Clinic

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Leadership Team has been working to develop opportunities for refreshing and updating our skills as we near the start of the new gardening season.

In mid-February, we will launch an Advanced Training course that will be required for all King County Master Gardeners. Since WSU information and resources are continually updated, we'll review best practices for accessing the latest research-based gardening advice. We'll provide a deep dive into some online resources that you may only be partially aware of. We'll explore Hortsense and Pestsense, as well as the Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook (that huge, text-heavy thing in your clinic bins and available weightlessly online). We'll aim to improve our skills in giving pesticide advice and help you find other useful resources. Since the Video and Email Clinics were launched this past spring, we've also realized how easy it is to access these materials online, so we'll train using the Video Clinic format.

The course will consist of two parts: first, an easily accessed video that you can review at a time that's best for you. This video is a prerequisite for the second part: a live program hosted on Zoom where we'll practice with our resources using the *Show Share* portions of *Say Show Share*. This live session will be offered at various times of day on multiple days, including weekdays and weekends, so everyone will have no trouble finding a time that works. At each session, we'll break out into several "rooms" of 4 or 5 Master Gardeners each, and a trained coach will support each room as we practice finding and sharing answers to typical questions.

You'll hear much more from us when Program Coordinator Mary Watts sends details shortly after February 1. We'll all look forward to seeing one another again.

The Clinic Leadership Team is comprised of Program Coordinator Mary Watts, Gary Scheider, Carrie Hill, Jim Olson, Daryl Schlessler, Molly van der Burch, Brenda Spilker, Wendy Jordan and Marty Byrne.

Meet the (Board)
President: Master
Gardener Jim
Olson



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Volunteer



If you have **WordPress** or **Constant Contact** expertise and would like to help KCMGs, contact Penny at [pckriese at gmail](mailto:pckriese@gmail.com).

Of Interest to You

Tip Sheets for KC
Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening
[Garden Tips](#)

amazon smile

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

...by Jim Olson, MGF Board President

Master Gardener Jim Olson began experimenting with gardening as a boy, attempting to grow zinnias in Alaska. Since then, he's moved back to more temperate climates and taken up the cultivation of orchids, among other plants. Read about his gardening life and why he joined the Master Gardener Foundation Board.



[Donate to MGFKC](#)

[Read more](#)



*Eastern redbud_ courtesy
Spring Hill Nursery*

The Gadabout Gardener: *New Year, New Plants for Your Garden*

*...by Bruce Bennett,
Master Gardener*

Look away from your seed catalogs for a bit for some fresh ideas for trees, shrubs, and perennials. MG Bruce Bennett has done the research on eight colorful specimens. You're sure to find a place for at least one of them in your landscape.

[Read more](#)



News Shoots: Short Subjects

2021 Master Gardener Online Plant Sale: It's in the works! Using lessons learned from the 2020 Online Plant Sale and some new technology, plans are moving

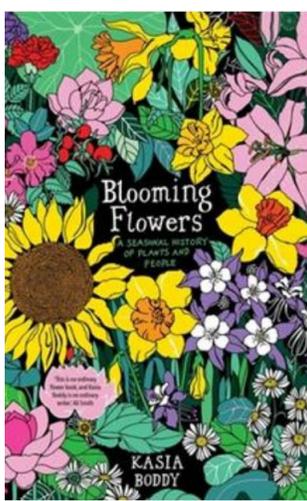
forward. Watch for details in the March *Connection*.

Elisabeth C. Miller Horticulture Book of the Month

Blooming Flowers: A Seasonal History of Plants and People

This month's book will take you through the history and lore of sixteen plants, some familiar and some not.

[Read more](#)



Continuing Education Opportunities

What Counts as CE?

Classes that will improve a volunteer's knowledge and skill base for performing work as a horticultural advisor and serving as a resource on issues of sustainable gardening for home gardeners.



Staying Smart!

Online Learning Opportunities

Master Gardeners can earn Continuing Education credit from a wide selection of online classes, webinars, and workshops. Check out the the MGF Education page:

<https://www.mgfk.org/education>

Growing Groceries Classes.

Growing Groceries classes are held on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the Zoom platform. A donation of \$5 is suggested to help the Foundation support the Master Gardener Program in King County.

February 10: Leafy Greens & Root Crops-lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, mâche; carrots, beets, rutabaga, parsnips, radishes. [Register](#)

Please visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration for all classes.

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops

Workshops are Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The first workshop each month is free and registration is not required. Registration is required for the remaining workshops for the month. A

donation of \$5 is suggested to help the Foundation support the Master Gardener Program in King County.

February 6: The History and Art of Bonsai presented by Bruce Williams, Master Gardener.
Free: Zoom link posted [here](#)

February 13:
Using Iris to Enhance Your Perennial Beds, presented by Patrick Spenser, Owner, Cascade Iris Gardens.

[Register](#)

February 20:
Safe and Healthy Edible Gardening, presented by Laura Matter, Garden Hotline Manager, Tilth Alliance.

[Register](#)

February 27:
Great Understory Plants for the PNW, presented by Laura Watson, Master Gardener.

[Register](#)

Check these websites for additional online classes.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

<https://bellevuebotanical.org/webinars/>

Savvy Gardener Classes (Saving Water Partnership)

<https://www.savingwater.org/lawn-garden/gardening-classes/>

Future File

Fall 2021:

The International Master Gardener Conference goes virtual! September 12 to 17, 2021

[International Master Gardener Conference](#)

The WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference for 2020 is rescheduled to September 29 - October 2, 2021.

[WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference,](#)

Events, Coming Attractions

February MGF Board Meeting cancelled. Meetings resume in March.

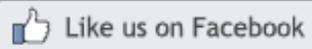
<http://www.mgfk.org/events/mgfk-meetings>



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 All published photos
have the photographer's permission or are sourced
from free-to-use sites.

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