

# SEEDS FOR THOUGHT

*Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State*

Volume 9 No. 1

January 2008

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## **From the President**

By Bill Havens

Happy Holiday Season to everyone. The Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State is planning a lot of great activities for 2008. The Master Gardener organization was started 35 years ago in Pierce and King Counties. We should all celebrate our founding during 2008 at our annual conference. The MGFWS/WSU Extension Advanced Training Conference will be at Fort Worden on June 12, 13, and 14th. WSU and the MGFWS have been working on a great speaker list and other activities to help us celebrate. Let this be the year we really show our stuff.

MGFWS is planning a Legislative Day to communicate data to State Legislators on the Master Gardener Programs in each County. We will not be asking for funding but simply showing all the good things we accomplish. We will set a date for our visit based on their schedule. Master Gardeners from the counties will make appointments with their representatives. Each county will prepare a one-page data sheet showing such things the number of Master Gardeners and public contact hours. Other supplemental information can be included in the handout such as clinic locations and outstanding program details. Master Gardeners from across the state will meet at a central location with WSU and Legislative leadership before we head off to our appointments. We expect some proclamations honoring our 35 years from both local and state officials.

During 2007, Master Gardeners accomplished a great deal in Washington State. We built a stronger relationship with WSU. Linda Fox, Associate Vice President and Dean of Extension, has built a great partnership with The Master Gardener Foundations. We could not hope for better support. Washington State University President, Elson S. Floyd, has elevated the Extension programs by adding a Vice President of Extension position.

The Joint 2007 MGFWS/WSU Advanced Training Conference in Fort Worden was a great success. WSU and The State Foundation worked together to provide a mix of Leadership and Advanced Training Classes. The 2007 Conference placed additional emphasis on Leadership training because it had not been emphasized in recent years.

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## FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Individuals, businesses, organizations, social clubs, and others are Friends of the Foundation. Friends are those who have contributed in kind or tax-deductible cash donations to support the Foundation, which, in turn supports the WSU Master Gardener Programs in communities statewide. THANK YOU to the following for their interest and contributions to the Foundation.

### Individual: \$25 to \$99:

Bob Taylor 2004, 2005	Whistling Rabbits Events 2005
Ed LaCrosse 2004, 2005, 2007	Richard and Frances Edgar 2005
M. J. Tyler 2004, 2006	Barbara and Jared Reisinger 2005
DeLona Kent 2004	Mansako Sekimoto 2005
Jean France 2004	Dr. John Wott 2005
Sharon Commander 2005	Rickey and Noreen Cabine 2005
Robert Commander 2004	Terry West and Carolyn Dupen 2005
Keith Underwood 2005	Ken Bryan and Sharon Hunter 2005
Bill Havens 2004	Candace Barraga and Bob Igou 2005
Judith Sheer 2004	Jim Olney and Leslie Touissant 2005
William Sheer 2004	Helen Bachrach 2005
Katherine C. Gordon 2005	
Martha Clatterbough 2005	

### Contributor: \$100 to \$499:

Bob Findlay and Lee Haugen 2004  
 Jan's Plants and Gifts, Poulsbo 2004, 2005  
 Joan B. Stout 2004, 2005  
 Ed Hume Enterprises, Inc., Kent 2004, 2005, 2006  
 Cedar Grove Composting, Seattle 2004  
 Don Stewart 2004  
 McComb Gardens Nursery 2005, 2006  
 Jean Anna Jennings 2005  
 Sarah Navarre 2005  
 Brian and Carol Murphy 2005  
 Linda Chalker-Scott and James Scott 2005  
 A&D Nursery, Snohomish 2005  
 Robert and Sharon Commander 2007

### Supporting: \$500 to \$999:

Larry Davis 2007

### Sustaining: \$1,000 or more:

Frank Russell Group of Companies, Tacoma  
 Allen Davenport  
 The Glass Gardener, Inc. 2005, [www.glassgardener.com](http://www.glassgardener.com)  
 Bill Havens 2007

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This year we welcome Grant-Adams as the latest addition to the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State. Mary Shinn has been named their representative and will make a good addition to the board.

This summer we held our retreat at the Puyallup Research and Extension Center. WSU staff and the Master Gardener Board had the opportunity to hear the views of Master Gardeners in the field. The Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State is working to improve communications and implementing other recommendations of the membership. WSU staff is writing a job description for the State Master Gardener Coordinator position.

## **WSU Master Gardeners Celebrate 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Mark your calendars for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WSU Master Gardeners! Our celebration will be held along with the Annual MGFWS/ WSU Extension Advanced Training Conference at Fort Worden State Park and Conference Center, Port Townsend, WA, June 12 through 14, 2008. We have a group of excellent speakers from Washington State University, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Northwest Garden Writers and Authors, along with Nursery Owners. You won't want to miss this gala celebration!

You may download the Conference Registration Form and the Conference Description from the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State (MGFWS) website, [mastergardener.wsu.edu](http://mastergardener.wsu.edu) starting January 15, 2008. You may register online using this site. You may also register by mailing your check and registration form to Christine Bailey at 2151 Hoxie Avenue, Richland, WA 99354.

Send housing registrations to Helen Bachrach, 4311 Umptanum Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926.

### **Get Ready to Raffle**

One of the highlights of the annual conference is the Raffle. Each year we gather items that most gardeners would like to win, be it baskets of small items, tools for gardening, books, garden art, paintings, or gift certificates to various and sundry gardening stores and nurseries. Five (or more) items are donated by each County (and there are 30 counties) and added to the 5 items donated by each Executive Board member. This year we will be having a Silent Auction for a few really impressive donations.

Please contact Carol Rubado with the list for your county, including the value of each raffle item. For example, if a basket and contents cost \$20 to replace then the value will be \$20; if a gift certificate or book is donated, then the value will be the cost of the item. This information is necessary for our Treasurer in any State filings she may be required to make. All counties will receive a gentle reminder letter if you have not contacted Carol by March, 2008

Please send all Raffle information to Carol Rubado by email at: [lcrubado@hughes.net](mailto:lcrubado@hughes.net) (that is a lower case "L" and not a #1) or phone 253-569-8315; or send mail to 30517 SE 408<sup>th</sup>, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

## **2008 MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION AWARDS**

In 2008 MGFWS will give several awards. A description of each will be e-mailed to each county representative. For more details, please contact the person in charge of each award. The **deadline for submission of nominees is April 1, 2008**. The awards will be presented at the MGFWS/WSU Extension Advanced Training Conference at Fort Warden.

**Master Gardener of the Year Award** honors a master gardener who best fills the criteria of leadership, commitment, legacy, promotion of the WA State MG program, educational impact and community involvement. Send detailed nominations and questions to Larry Davis [davislw3@comcast.net](mailto:davislw3@comcast.net) or 253-927-4751. Larry is in charge of this award for 2008.

**Scholarships** of \$500.00 each will be awarded to two people who are entering college/university for the first time in 2008. Each county may submit one candidate. The scholarships are named in honor of **Van Bobbitt and Mary Robson**. A person may receive the scholarship only once and must meet the following requirements:

1. Sponsored by a Washington State County Master Gardener Program.
2. Accepted by a recognized accredited college/university.
3. Planning a course of study in Horticultural, Agricultural or related fields.

Application forms are available in many schools and from any county Extension office where there is a Master Gardener Foundation or Program. Applications are due in mid-March to County committees. Check your county for the exact date and other information. Martha Clatterbaugh is in charge of this award. She has e-mailed out details. For more information, contact her at 425-483-2963.

The **media award** is given to a person in Washington State who helps actively promote the MG program through the media. For more information and to nominate someone, contact Helen Bachrach, [mghousing@yahoo.com](mailto:mghousing@yahoo.com) or 509-925-3820.

The **Service Award** is given to a Master Gardener who has done outstanding service to the State Foundation. Last year's winners were Sharon Commander and Don Tapio. For more information and to nominate an MG, contact Mary Shane, Service Award Chairperson, at [meshane@comcast.net](mailto:meshane@comcast.net) or 360-249-4125.

For a **current directory** of the MGFWS executive committee, board members and other contacts within each county, contact Chris Bailey, [mastergardenerwa@yahoo.com](mailto:mastergardenerwa@yahoo.com) or 509-943-6020.

### **Get Ready for Search for Success**

Do you have a unique and outstanding program that has been a success for your county? If so, we want to hear about it. During the June conference we will showcase projects and innovative programs from throughout the state. In January you will be receiving detailed information about this program along with a participation form. You will be invited to showcase your entry through a static display and/or a 10-15 minute oral presentation.

For questions or additional information, please contact Chris Bailey, [mastergardenerwa@yahoo.com](mailto:mastergardenerwa@yahoo.com).

**Metro Region** by Larry Davis

Cesar Chavez Demo Garden, El Centro de la Rasa, has been reborn with weed cleanup and a new cactus planting, thanks to some new enthusiastic volunteers including Gene Solyntjes. Bellevue Demo Garden had its annual Harvest Festival on Sept. 22, with tomato tasting, contests, raffles, free bouquets, garden tours, all kinds of food, and even live music – all free! Our Program Coordinator, Elaine Anderson, was invited to present information on our King County Master Gardener Program at two conferences in Japan several months ago. Dr. Hirata, from Japan, was here to see our program in person and attend one of our KC Foundation Board Meetings.

**Other News**

The King County MG Foundation Web site is presently being totally refurbished, and is expected to be reborn and operational by early January 2008. The original site may still be accessed, but is largely outdated.

Other County MG Foundations have asked about mentoring of Clinics, Demo Gardens and Outreach Educational Programs. All our KCF board members are assigned clinics, gardens and outreach programs, so that each one has a mentor. Each foundation member reports monthly on each clinic's progress and/or problems.

**Neely Mansion Volunteers Move to Lake Wilderness Arboretum**

Since the Neely Mansion MG Clinic was closed, the former Neely Mansion volunteers have voted to begin a collaborative effort with the Lake Wilderness Arboretum. Master Gardeners will be responsible for designing, establishing and caring for a Native American Ethno botanical Garden. It's a terrific opportunity for learning and for educating others.

**Check out the Ethel Dupar Fragrant Garden** at: [www.seattlelighthouse.org/garden](http://www.seattlelighthouse.org/garden). It is a Garden developed in 1973 for the blind and has been a project of the King County Master Gardeners since 2002. It's wheel chair accessible and will make "your socks roll up and down" (as Ciscoe says) with all the fragrant plants.

**Yakima County** by Tom Kerns

Recent events include help received from several Home Depot employees at our Demonstration Garden (which closed for the season on 10/31). We hope to partner with them next year on projects for Habitat for Humanity. Our September Tomato Fest and December Recognition Lunch were well attended. Planning for our annual spring conference is well underway and our greenhouse activity started up November 1st.

Several members have made presentations to local garden clubs and have prepared educational flyers regarding care of specific plants for distribution at local plant outlets. And finally we look forward to the start of training classes on 1/23/08 with 34 new students signed on so far.

**Whatcom County** by Linda Bergquist

The Master Gardener Foundation of Whatcom County gave scholarships to three outstanding county students to pursue studies in agriculture, horticulture and related fields. The following students will each receive \$1,000 toward their college education: Melissa Vander Hoek, Lynden Christian High School, to study Animal Science at Dordt College in Iowa; Brandon Larsen, Mount Baker High School, for Natural Resources Studies at Green River Community College; and Clay Pehl, second year student in Landscape Architecture at Washington State University. Each year our Foundation uses a portion of its spring garden sale funds to provide scholarships to area students

## **Southwest Region** by Ben Trowbridge

**Thurston County** is certainly one of the most comprehensive and busiest Chapters in the state. Here are some of the numbers from August 2006-2007: over 1,000 youth served in children and family activities; over 2,000 direct community contacts at events (fairs, celebrations, Olympia Farmers Market, etc.); over 1,400 adults served in classes, workshops, etc. Approximately 4,000 plant and insect identifications and plant problems diagnosed.

The Thurston County 2008 Training Class starts in January. They have been trying out a variety of formats. The last group attended classes every three weeks instead of the weekly format. They found more people attracted to a program that was spread out over a long period of time instead of the concentrated format. They will be repeating this format for 2008. A Mentor program was introduced this year and found to be very beneficial.

**Mason County** MG just completed their training sessions with 50 new members. They also introduced a Mentor program that provided a swift and smooth induction of new members into the program.

Starting in January they will start their Country Living Workshops that are designed to help local residents put nutritious, homegrown products on their tables. The classes will cover everything from planning and planting to harvesting and preparing vegetables. Speakers will help gardeners produce a successful vegetable garden whether they have an acre plot, a raised bed, or several containers on their porch. The classes will be held about once a month from January through September on Saturday mornings at the Mason County Fairgrounds. Cost of the entire series is \$50.00 per family or \$10.00 per class. The first class is scheduled for January 26, from 10-am to noon.

It is our understanding that we are to lose city funding for next year. This means we would lose our coordinator. We have yet not recognized what this means though we do understand we are going to have a close look at our current activities and possibly lose a few. For those out there who are in similar situations we would appreciate your feedback.

**Cowlitz County** has a very successful program at the Juvenile Center with lots of kids involved. They have built new garden beds and set up a greenhouse. Many of them love to cook.

Cowlitz County Master Gardeners have moved and can be found at the new Extension Office, 1946 3rd Ave.

**Lewis County** is still digging out from the storm, including Don Tapio, whose property is still soggy. Considering the problems he has had "down on the farm" this year, we might suggest he find a nice second story condo in Olympia to settle down in.

HOUSING AVAILABILITY FOR THE 2008 CONFERENCE  
FT. WORDEN, JUNE 12, 13 and 14, 2008 (as of Dec. 12, 2007)

THERE IS STILL EXCELLENT AVAILABILITY FOR ON-SITE HOUSING. YOU CAN MAKE YOUR HOUSING RESERVATIONS NOW, WHILE AWAITING THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM (AVAILABLE JANUARY 15TH)!!

**OFFICER HOUSING:**

- 1 6-BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATHS \$1,275 for the three nights  
Sleeps 14 in 5 rooms with double beds, one with twins and 2 roll-aways
  
- 1 3-BEDROOM, 1 1/2 BATHS \$680.00 for the three nights  
Sleeps 7 in 2 double bedded bedrooms and 1 twin bedroom and 1 roll-away  
This has not been renovated recently.
  
- 1 3-BEDROOM, 1 1/2 BATHS \$780.00 for the three nights.  
Sleeps 7 in 2 double bedrooms and 1 twin room and 1 roll-away  
This has been completely remodeled with new kitchen and carpets.

**NCO HOUSING:**

**Several:**

- 2-BEDROOM, 1 BATH \$480.00 for the three nights  
Sleeps 5 in a double bedded bedroom, a twin bedroom and 1 roll-away

**Several:**

- 2-BEDROOM, 1 1/2 BATHS \$530.00 for the three nights.  
Sleeps 5 in a double bedded bedroom, a twin bedroom and 1 roll-away.

**DORM ROOMS IN BUILDING 225**

LOTS OF SINGLE ROOMS AT \$105.00 (INDICATE TOP OR GROUND FLOOR PLEASE)  
LOTS OF DOUBLE ROOMS AT \$170.00. MOST ARE ON THE GROUND FLOOR. PLEASE SPECIFY TOP OR GROUND FLOOR, IF YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE.

HELEN BACHRACH, mghousing@yahoo.com, 509 925-3820, 4311 Umptanum Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Check or credit card for payment.

## Northwest Region by Stan Lundgaard

MGs in Snohomish County have devoted many hours toward the planning and coordination for the upcoming Master Gardener Training Class 2008 with approximately sixty aspiring new master gardeners. Likewise, MGs have prepared for, and lined up a list of speakers for the Sustainable Gardening 2008 continuing education series. This popular series, now in its fifth year was sold out early. The lectures begin on 4 January, with Ed Hume as the leadoff speaker. The series goes every other week through the end of April.

One of our talented MGs is an expert on centerpiece arrangement. She offered to conduct a class recently to teach others how to assemble centerpieces from plant foliage collected from our own yards and gardens. There were about fifteen people in attendance, each building a centerpiece. Additionally, this was a “beta test” for a fundraiser. Several orders for centerpieces were received and the delivered product received a rave review. The session was considered a huge success, and the plan is to make it an annual fundraising event beginning in late 2008.

<p>Seeds for Thought Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State P.O. Box 91 Puyallup, WA 98371</p>
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