

# SEEDS FOR THOUGHT

*Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State*

Vol. 9, No. 2

April 2008

## BOARD OFFICERS

### **PRESIDENT**

BILL HAVENS

### **SECRETARY**

CAROLYN BRAND

### **TREASURER**

SHARON COMMANDER

### **VP OLYM. PENN.**

PAUL BECKER

### **VP NORTHWEST**

STAN LUNDGAARD

### **VP SOUTHWEST**

BEN TROWBRIDGE

### **VP METRO**

LARRY DAVIS

### **VP NORTHEAST**

KURT BOESENBERG

### **VP SOUTHEAST**

HELEN BACHRACH

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

This year we are celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Founding of the Master Gardener Program by Washington State University. We have several Master Gardeners from the first class who are still active in the program. An estimated 3,600 volunteers contributed more than 220,000 hours in 36 Washington counties last year. Master Gardeners continue to provide up-to-date information on horticulture and environmentally responsible gardening practices to the citizens of Washington State. Part of this year's anniversary celebration will be included in the Annual State Conference in Fort Worden. The exciting classes at the Conference help keep us informed on topics important in our changing world. Perhaps we will have an even greater role to play in helping people in the future. Higher costs of food will encourage people to produce supplies locally. Consumption of organic produce has increased dramatically in recent years and we can encourage residents to grow their own. We have a challenge to reach even more people to help them with their problems and protect our environment. We must also work with the government officials to obtain funding for our good works. Let us Celebrate all over the State.

## **BOARD MEETING CHANGE**

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Saturday, April 5, 2008, Master Gardener Foundation Board meeting has been changed from North Bend to Puyallup. We will meet in the Victoria Rhubarb Room at the Pierce County Demo Garden. The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus of the WSU Research and Extension Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

Please bring a sack lunch. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided.

William Havens, President  
Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State

Published quarterly by the  
Master Gardener Foundation of  
Washington State, Lee Haugen,  
Editor and Christine Bailey,  
distribution.

## 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 in 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, 2007  
 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, 2008

### 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

## **ASOTIN COUNTY**

Asotin County Master Gardeners are currently in the middle of our Sustainable Gardening Training event. We have about 70 people from Asotin, Garfield, Whitman (Washington), Nezperce, Clearwater and Lewis Counties (Idaho). Presenters are from WSU, U of Idaho and County Extension leaders. Our group will offer internships to about a dozen new interns from the training. We currently have 22 Master Gardeners in our Foundation Chapter.

We have been involved in the following activities. Weekly Plant Clinics from May through September in our offices at the County Court House as well as in several off site nurseries and farmers markets. Ongoing Worm Composting presentations offered to all fifth grade classes in our area. A yearly Yard and Garden Series--this year featuring Container Gardening and Xeriscaping during Spring and Fall. Yearly Banana Belt Educational series (Asotin and Nez Perce County extensions) in the Spring. We offer week-long classes in the Jr. Master Gardener Program in August.

We organized and presented an eight-week hands-on series on Organic Gardening cooperating with Northwest Indian College and U of I Extension. The sessions were held weekly at the Tribal Garden site in Lapwai. We participated in a three-month Asotin County Weed Board study of the impact of bio-control weevil distribution on yellow star thistle. We offer an Arbor Day program to the student council of Parkview School and we participate in the yearly Fifth Grade Rendezvous of Asotin County Schools each Spring.

We host our state legislator and county commissioners at a potluck and general informational meeting in lieu of Legislative Day. And a contingent of our membership plans to attend the Yearly Foundation meeting at Ft. Worden in June. See you there, Deloris Jungert-Davisson

## **PIERCE COUNTY**

Larry Davis

Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor, one of the newer demonstration gardens, was used for a fruit tree-pruning workshop on February 2nd. Master Gardener Bill Horn showed attendees different pruning tools and ways to clean and disinfect the tools, and sharpen pruning saws and loppers. Certified Arborist Robert Sweet then demonstrated renovation pruning on the apple and plum trees in the old orchard

Under the leadership of MG's Carolyn Brand and Dottie Tate, we are putting together a Cookbook to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Master Gardeners. The cookbook will be released at the Pierce County Recognition Event 2009. There will be more information on this soon.

Plant and Pest Diagnostic eNetwork (PPDEN) was formerly Distance Diagnosis through Digital Imagery (DDDI). The Pierce County Master Gardeners recently added a digital

Pierce County, continued

camera to their tools to better solve horticultural problems and answer questions for the public. Wouter Bosch (Tacoma Office MG Clinic Manager), working with Norm Dart (Extension Coordinator for Ornamental Plant Pathology), set up the PPDEN program for the Tacoma MG office clinic to relay pictures of diseased or unknown plants and insects to experts at the WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center. PPDEN will set up a plant and disease database, provide rapid communication and response on problems, track physical samples, and network several diagnosticians at different locations. The digital camera can be attached to the office microscope to photograph magnified specimens and then images are downloaded to the computer for emailing. The Clinic plans to forward images to local MG experts first for fun and training and then, if they're stumped, to Puyallup researchers. This procedure will allow examination of images before physical specimens deteriorate. Norm Dart taught a class to train MGs and Diana Adamson is developing an office manual to describe the process. Although only used a few times last year, the office clinic expects to more fully utilize PPDEN in 2008.

## **King County**

Judy Porterfield, (President, MGFKC)

The Annual King County Plant Sale is scheduled for May 3-4 at the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington. This year we will once again hold our Pre-Sale Party on the Friday evening before the sale. Tickets will be \$35, and all guests will be able to shop the plant sale and will be entertained by a team of chefs who will be participating in a cook-off. Ciscoe Morris will be presiding as Master of Ceremonies, and wine and appetizers will be served. It's a popular and festive event, and ticket sales are strictly capped at 300.

Upcoming events are as follows. Contact Larry Davis, Judy Porterfield, or other King County MGs for more information.

**April 26**, King County Master Gardener Program and South Seattle Community College will present a full day's worth of continuing education opportunities for Master Gardeners throughout the Northwest District. There will be 16 classes on everything from diagnostics to hazardous trees to landscape design and more! Contact Elaine Anderson, King County MG Coordinator at 206-205-3122 or [elaine.anderson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:elaine.anderson@kingcounty.gov).

**Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops:** (Free, no registration required)

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. until noon, Contact Mary Osborne, 425-485-5942

**Planning Raised Beds and Containers**

Saturday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.-noon

**Practical Environmentally Sound Solutions to Vexing Garden Problems**

Tuesday, April 1

**Soil Management**

April 9, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

**Weed Management**

April 16, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

## **Snohomish County**

Stan Lundgaard, NW Regional VP

Snohomish County MGs are preparing for their annual plant sale to be held at McCollum Park in Everett on May 3rd. This is one of the major fund raisers and requires much planning, preparation and coordination. There will be 2,000 tomato plants, of over 75 varieties, available at the sale. The tomato seeds are started by individuals at the Washington State Department of Corrections located in the city of Monroe. The seedlings are turned over to the MGs in March to be potted, repotted, and cared for until the sale on May 3. Additionally, hundreds of trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses are available at the sale. At least 12 vendors will be on site displaying their crafts and wares. This event has been a huge success in the past and is well attended by the public.

## **Yakima County**

Tom Kerns.

Training classes began January 23 with 29 new students. On the February 18 Holiday we held a propagation session (seeding) for kids/grandkids of our members at the green house. Due to a lack of funds, we do not have the luxury of a paid coordinator. To compensate, a task list has been prepared and individual members assume responsibility for several areas that will assist our Extension Educator.

Several members have been speaking to garden clubs, church groups and 4H kids, while others will host a "Habitat" booth to be presented to the public on March 9.

## **Southwest Region**

Ben Trowbridge

Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties A perennial favorite of Grays Harbor is their annual bus trip to the N.W. Garden Show. A sell-out crew of gardeners from Grays and surrounding counties made the trip. They are now preparing for the annual Home and Garden Show. It features displays from most of the counties nurseries. May 17-18 are the dates and it is free. They also are working on a rejuvenation/expansion program involving the award winning Demonstration Garden located at the Fair Grounds. They are developing a Master Composting training program inspired by Dirt Works in Thurston County and the State Department of Ecology is providing funds through Grays County to make this project possible.

Cowlitz County Cowlitz has an excellent series of workshops coming up. Check their web site at <http://wsu.edu>. Their Home and Garden show will be at Expo Center on April 5 and 6. The Master Gardeners will present programs at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. on Saturday. Linda Taylor will be planting a new dahlia garden at their Demonstration Garden. Any Master Gardeners out there that have any tubers might think about sending her a few. You can contact her at [taylofam@quest.net](mailto:taylofam@quest.net).

Mason County Mason County is sponsoring a nine-month series of Country Living Workshops. They didn't know what they were getting into. More than 140 folks showed up at the first one and all bought tickets for the nine-month series. Check it out at <http://mason.wsu.edu>. It covers all aspects of home grown food, including soils, location, planting, watering, cooking the results.

We have lost some of our County funding but we are doing just fine. This not an unusual situation these days and we thank all of you, particularly Grays Harbor for lending support. Gardeners are indeed a special group.

Mason County continued

At Ann Lovejoy's suggestion Mason County has become involved in the vegetable gardens at the beautiful retreat on the sound, Harmony Hill. She has and will continue to offer classes there so check the website at [www.Harmonyhill.org/retreats/lovejoy.html](http://www.Harmonyhill.org/retreats/lovejoy.html) .

---

## **LEGISLATIVE DAY**

Master Gardener Legislative Day was celebrated on Feb 5th. Master Gardeners from several Counties visited their legislators in Olympia, although participation was somewhat limited due to weather conditions in Washington at this time of year. Many legislators welcomed us and talked about the Program. Some were very familiar with our activities and some didn't know who we were. We always have the opportunity and obligation to inform our leaders about the Master Gardener Program. Visit your representatives in the counties and deliver the Linda Fox letter and talk with them. Present details on the county-level programs. Ask what they expect from the program, especially as budgets will be restricted this year as the economy has problems. Now is the time when we can be of most help to Washington State residents, and we only require minimal funding to continue our programs.

## **MG of the Year**

MG of the YEAR AWARD is now being sponsored by *Master Gardener Magazine*. They will provide the plaque and Jim Black, managing editor, will present the award at the conference. The magazine will have an article on the award and a picture of the winner. Nominees will also be honored. With all this increased publicity for this distinguished award, be sure your county submits a nominee or more by the April 1st deadline.

## **Conference Reminders**

Time is running short to submit applications for Search for Success and/or the awards and scholarships that will be presented at the WSU-MGFWS 2008 Conference. The deadline is **April 1, 2008**. For more information or to submit an application, please contact those listed below.

Scholarships	Martha Clatterbaugh 425-483-2963; <a href="mailto:m.gardener@verizon.net">m.gardener@verizon.net</a>
Search for Success	Chris Bailey 509-943-6020; <a href="mailto:mastergardenerwa@yahoo.com">mastergardenerwa@yahoo.com</a>
Master Gardener of the Year	Larry Davis 253-927-4751; <a href="mailto:davislw3@comcast.net">davislw3@comcast.net</a>
Media Award	Helen Bachrach 509-925-3820; <a href="mailto:bachrach@elltel.net">bachrach@elltel.net</a>
Service Award	Mary Shane 360-249-4125; <a href="mailto:meshane@comcast.net">meshane@comcast.net</a>

## **LESSONS FROM A SUCCESSFUL PLANT SALE**

Bob Findlay, Thurston County Master Gardener

In recent years Thurston County has had a succession of increasingly profitable sales to benefit our three demonstration gardens. Several successful practices are worth sharing.

**Clear leadership** that acts to facilitate meetings and work sessions, and that clearly assigns duties to others for volunteers, promotion, plant acquisition and care, parking and shuttle logistics, labeling, pricing, accounting, and guest vendors.

**Enlist Master Gardeners to adopt sections of the plants on sale**, such as trees and shrubs, grasses, shade plants, NW natives, and Great Plant Picks. These focused and knowledgeable Master Gardeners help acquire, nurture, label, price and sell in these areas.

**Plan for the flow of traffic through the sale site.** Plants in the garden that are available at the sale are so labeled. When the sale gate opens, shoppers enter a site in which plants are arrayed in rows with plants brought forward to refresh pedestal displays (cable spools) at the head of each row, and categories of plant types are clearly labeled.

**Develop a database of the plant inventory**, including botanical and common names, cultural needs, growth habits, bloom color and season. This information is laser-printed on plastic labels and displayed throughout the sale area.

**Sell through education** by Master Gardener sale volunteers who are assigned to sale areas and share knowledge about cultural needs of plants. "Personal Shoppers" guide visitors throughout the site and an information booth is where other MGs can elaborate on plant information.

**Knowledgeable and realistic pricing**, just below market because we are a not-for-profit organization, and much of our stock is either donated or obtained at wholesale, but close attention must be paid to make sure we are not undercutting market prices too much; i.e., "giving the stuff away."

**Be vigilant of volunteer time and effort needed for the sale.** Establish a clear routine of intake, potting, labeling and placing in the sale site. Limit the further movement of potted plants. Adopt practices of selecting-out marginal plants, sending some to the freebie display, and others to compost. Make it clear to plant donors that the inclusion of their plants is at the discretion of the sale volunteers. Acquire plants through home gardens, through demonstration garden liaisons, and wholesalers.

Through these practices we have been able to raise overall income each year. We feel that our sale site may have reached a plateau of audience and congestion, so we are seeking ways to further raise the profit per pot through careful selection of sale plants and improving their condition and our knowledge in time for the next event. The plant sales that many counties rely upon to support their program activities should be seen as part of the education of the community clientele as well as of the Master Gardeners themselves. Enjoy.

## **A Letter From the New Master Gardener Program Leader**

Hello everyone,

I am delighted to have the position within WSU Extension as Master Gardener Program Leader. The program is important to me and I am honored to be in a position of support and leadership for it.

Briefly, these are my short-term goals:

- Establish and maintain active lines of communication, first with emails and eventually through an e-newsletter.
- Make the <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu> Web site a place where you can find everything you need to operate a current program. Cinde Johnson has already made significant updates and changes, but I still need to review the handbooks and other policies that are on the site.
- Establishing regular meetings for MG Program Coordinators within each district to exchange ideas and share resources.
- Participate in the monthly MG Leadership Advisory Council meetings and convey issues and decisions discussed there to all of you.
- Serve as ex-officio member of the MG Foundation and attend the Executive meeting on March 12 to discuss a new MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). The current MOU expires this month.

Longer term goals include working on the on-line training project, developing advanced training opportunities, and connecting with partner organizations and agencies.

My new contact information is included in my signature panel below. Please contact with me with any questions. I'm pleased to be here. I'll be in touch!

### **Tonie Fitzgerald**

Master Gardener Program Leader  
WSU Extension at WSU Spokane  
Mailing: PO Box 1495, Spokane, WA 99210-1495  
**509-358-7879** fax 509-358-7979  
[tjfitz@wsu.edu](mailto:tjfitz@wsu.edu) [www.mastergardener.wsu.edu](http://www.mastergardener.wsu.edu)

### **Conference Registration**

We will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Master Gardener program at the state conference on June 12-14, 2008, in the picturesque town of Port Townsend. You may still qualify for the early conference registration fee of \$135.00 if you register soon. **On April 12, 2008, the registration fee will increase to \$145.00.** You should register soon to be sure of a space in the classes you prefer. The conference brochure and registration form can be accessed at <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/>. Secure online registration is also available at this web site where you can pay by Visa or MasterCard. If you prefer to register by mail, print the registration form, fill it out, and mail it with your payment to the address on the form.

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