



The Common Sense Gardener

From the Foundation President by Toni Ghazal

Hello!

As most of you have heard I am stepping in and finishing Jackie White's term as President of the Master Gardener Foundation Board. I hope that I will be an asset to the Board in my new position. December is upon us and I am not sure what happened



to summer. We harvested what we could from the garden and life goes on. I do find myself still out and rummaging around in the gardens rearranging and cleaning. I suppose it is my therapy.

I look forward to the coming year and the new outreach programs that we will put in place. We have a mission of education but we also have a responsibility as a volunteer organization to give back to our community. Requests of us have increased due to the continuing name recognition of Master Gardeners, the down turn in the economy and lack of funding in other agencies. So stay tuned in and discover what is around the corner in 2012.

Have a happy holiday and a good New Year!

A Winter Poem

"Have you ever noticed a tree standing naked against the sky,
How beautiful it is?

All its branches are outlined, and in its nakedness
There is a poem, there is a song.
Every leaf is gone and it is waiting for the spring.
When the spring comes, it again fills the tree with
The music of many leaves,
Which in due season fall and are blown away.

And this is the way of life."

- Krishnamurti

Dec/Jan/Feb
2011-2012

Volume 11, Issue 6

Helpful Websites:

Thurston County Extension:
<http://county.wsu.edu/thurston>

Master Gardener Foundation of
Thurston County website:
www.mgftc.org

Compost Bin Sales:
www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com

WSU Publications:
<http://pubs.wsu.edu>

"Like" us on Facebook
WSU Master Gardener Program of
Thurston County

Blog: wsumgtc.wordpress.com

The MGFTC Scholarship Program

Congratulations to this years MGFTC Scholarship recipient, Kellie Jackson!

Kellie Jackson is a second year student at South Puget Sound Community College, with expected completion of her Associate's Degree in Horticulture Technology following this upcoming winter quarter. She is a first time college student after graduating high school more than 20 years ago. She has worked in the medical field since she was a teenager but a layoff in recent years encouraged her to pursue her passion; plants and sustainable design. She is married, a mother to one daughter, and soon to be a grandmother for the first time. She and her husband have enjoyed increasing their family unit by hosting exchange students over the years and they currently have two in their home, also South Puget Sound Community College students. Kellie plans to continue her education beyond her degree, taking art, C.A.D. and business classes to compliment her plans for a career in sustainable landscape design.

About the Scholarship Program

Even though the foundation includes \$1,000 in its annual budget, some MGFTC members have given scholarship-specific donations to further enhance our scholarship program and to provide more opportunities for applicants who seek an education and career in horticulture.

The Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State (MGFWS) offers two \$1,000 scholarships annually known as the Mary Robson and Van Bobbitt Scholarships, which enable students to pursue studies in horticulture and its related fields. The MGFTC will piggy back on these two scholarships by offering a separate \$250 scholarship to a Thurston County student who applies for these MGFWS scholarships. For more information on this and the SPSCC scholarship, please visit our website at www.mgftc.org

MGFTC 2011 Sponsorships

The Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County wishes to thank the following individuals for their generous sponsorship in 2011 of the MGFTC and its mission to “Enhance and promote the county’s Master Gardener and Master Recycler Composter Programs in an atmosphere of camaraderie and teamwork.”

Francelia (Frankie) Rasmussen, MGFTC “Friend”

Sammie Preble, MGFTC “Friend”

Mary Moore, MGFTC “Friend”



Your generosity and support to the Foundation is greatly appreciated.

Spotlight Volunteer: Bryan Ketola

Name: Bryan Ketola

Year: 2010

Where did you grow up? I grew up in a small town west of Olympia called Hoquiam. Then at age 6 moved to Olympia, WA.

How long have you lived in Thurston County? This year I'm celebrating 35 years. Since 1976 I've been here and spent my childhood in the Olympia School District and as a local resident of Olympia.

Family and/or Pets?

I have two grown children, Cameron and Alysha. I also have two grandchildren and in 2012 there will be one more addition to the family.

Hobbies? I enjoy coaching soccer, gardening, and playing on-line games (especially golf). I also grow veggies at my community garden plots I have next to Dirt Works.

My favorite part of being a Master Gardener and/or Master Recycler Composter volunteer?

My favorite parts are the devotion and friendships that acquire. Months before I began training my life was very different, I was on my death bed. During my Master Gardener training in 2010 I knew I was in the right place by Cori's enthusiasm as the instructor and by fellow future gardeners. Being a Master Gardener has become part of my life's path.

Other Comments:

Even with my challenges, I hope to show future Master Gardener and Master Recycler Composter volunteers to try your best even if you face obstacles. Even though we are trained the same each of us has our own talents we bring to this program. That's why they call me the "Fern Guy".



Cori's Corner by Cori Carlton, Program Manager

What a snap-tastic year!!!!

2011 has been filled with lots of hard work, fun and friendship. Most recently we were able to recognize all the hard work at our annual awards nights. On the following pages you will find a list of Master Gardener and Master Recycler Composter volunteers who were recognized for reaching service milestones. Everyone who is listed should have received a certificate and a token of our appreciation. If you have not received your award(s) please contact Cori to coordinate pick-up arrangements.



I want to thank each of you who gave service hours on behalf of our programs in 2011. We should be overjoyed with all that we accomplished this year and the best part is knowing that our community is stronger for it!

To re-cap all that we have accomplished I will be sending our year-end report shortly. The report will also highlight our 2012 goals.

As January approaches I always look at this time of year with a renewed sense of hope and excitement. With all the seed catalogs arriving this is a perfect time to dream about what you want to grow this year.

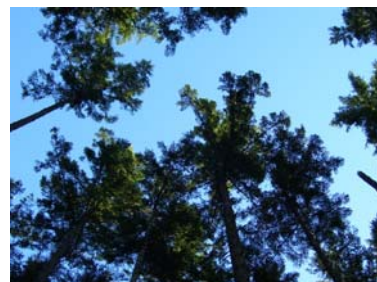
January is also the time all Master Gardener and Master Recycler volunteers need to complete their yearly recommitment form. Reminder: All "active" volunteers must have a signed form on file to volunteer in 2012.

In the meantime think about what areas of the program you would like to volunteer in. We all have a niche within our groups. Have you found yours? If not, try something new and be the change you wish to see in our organizations.

I hope you are up for an exciting 2012! A billion snaps to you for sharing your time and wonderful talents with our community and one another.

All of us at WSU Extension wish you and your families a joyful holiday with best wishes for health and happiness in the New Year!

One of my favorite parts of winter is seeing Licorice ferns in their full glory. Licorice ferns grow in trees during the winter and die back in the summer. They are a great reminder that all things are possible, even under difficult circumstances. Sometimes it's best to not look forward or back but to take a second to look up and appreciate the moment. I hope 2012 is filled with lots of great "look up" moments!



Birthdays for December, January & February

By filling out our Recommitment form we now have the pleasure of wishing our fellow Master Gardeners and Master Recycler Composters a Happy Birthday.

December:

Mark Hodgkins, Dec. 2nd
 Tami Edwards, Dec. 3rd
 Lisa McGarvie, Dec. 5th
 Donna Compton, Dec. 6th
 Lisa Hall, Dec. 7th
 Glenda Jackson, Dec. 8th
 Kevin Lyon, Dec. 8th
 Cathy Johnson, Dec. 10th
 Judy Wilson, Dec. 10th
 Linda Bennett, Dec. 11th
 Terry Travis, Dec. 14th
 Angela Skinder, Dec. 16th
 Bernadette Sison, Dec. 17th
 Dianna Moyer, Dec. 18th
 Mary Boston, Dec. 21st
 Sandy Hallstrom, Dec. 25th
 Lynda Bauer, Dec. 26th
 Kathleen Hansson, Dec. 27th
 Susan Emley, Dec. 28th
 Sue Huntley, Dec. 28th
 Pam Robert, Dec. 28th
 Mike Kashmar, Dec. 30th
 Joan Aspaas, Dec. 31st
 David Murphy, Dec. 31st
 Stephanie Tibbits, Dec. 31st



January:

Carla Delducco, Jan. 3rd
 Dawn Lamp, Jan. 3rd
 Lauri Martin, Jan. 4th
 Julianne Armstrong, Jan. 9th
 Pauline Feuling, Jan. 9th
 Bob Richards, Jan. 11th
 Char Ide, Jan. 11th
 Janet Mandel, Jan. 13th
 Jim Pedrick, Jan. 17th
 Tom Neitzel, Jan. 18th
 Marie Vinton, Jan. 19th
 Mike Gard, Jan. 20th
 Amy Ramsey-Kroll, Jan. 21st
 Jan Seguin, Jan. 21st
 Linda Walker, Jan. 23rd
 Kay Timmis, Jan. 25th
 Alisha Colbert, Jan. 27th
 Warren Dunahugh, Jan. 28th
 Kathy Emory, Jan. 29th
 Cathy McFarland, Jan. 31st
 Dorothy Seabourne-Taylor, Jan 31st





Birthdays for December, January & February

February:

Paula Finch, Feb. 2nd
Nancy Mills, Feb. 2nd
Roberta Nott, Feb. 6th
Deborah Welt, Feb. 7th
Jeannine Pia, Feb. 9th
David Purtee, Feb. 10th
Angela Ruiz, Feb. 11th
Janet O'Connell, Feb. 12th
Kathryn Baker, Feb. 13th
Jay Hall, Feb. 16th
Shanna Winters, Feb. 18th
Kathy Peterson, Feb. 19th
Jennifer Ferguson, Feb. 20th
Diane Stanger, Feb. 20th
Joan Stiggelbout, Feb. 23rd
Catherine Eddington, Feb. 24th
Susan Doolittle, Feb. 28th
Julia Palmer, Feb. 28th



Wishing you a year full of health and happiness!

If your birthday is in December, January or February and you don't see your name of the list please contact Cori so we can update our files.

**A birthday is just the first day of
another 365-day journey around the sun.**

Enjoy the trip!



2012 Master Calendar Dates

General Master Gardener Activities are green

General Master Recycler Composting are pink

General Foundation Events are blue

Events for both volunteer groups and/or community members are turquoise.

Outreach events representing both programs are purple

Board or Committee meetings are orange

Deadlines are red

Other activities or events that don't fit into the above categories are black

January

4th MG Pre-Orientation 5:30pm to 7pm

5th Mentor Training 10am to Noon

11th-Foundation Board Meeting 10am

17th MG Pre-Orientation 5:30pm to 7pm

20th MG Training Applications Due

February

2nd-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

7th-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

8th-Foundation Board Meeting 10am

8th-12th NW Flower & Garden Show in Seattle
www.gardenshow.com

9th-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

16th Foundation General Membership Mtg 5:30pm-8pm

23rd-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

24th -Newsletter deadline for March-April-May Edition

25th-Master Gardener Training Class 9am to 1pm

March

2nd CLP Garden Kickoff Work Party

3rd OFM Garden Kickoff Work Party

6th-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

8th-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

9th CLP Garden Kickoff (back up date)

14th-Foundation Board Meeting 10am

15th Master Recycler Composter Kick Off & Potluck Event 5:30pm

17th OFM Garden Kickoff (back up date)

22nd-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

24th-Master Gardener Training Class 9:00am to 1:00pm

April

3rd-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

5th OFM Garden opens for the season

5th-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

6th OFM garden steering committee meeting

11th Foundation Board Meeting 10am

14th Fred Meyer Planting Day

19th-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

21st-Master Gardener Training Class 9:00am to 1:00pm

28th-29th Nisqually Valley Home & Garden Show

KEY

MG=Master Gardener

MRC=Master Recycler Composter

CLP=Closed Loop Park Demo Garden

DW=Dirt Works Demo Garden

OFM= Olympia Farmer's Market Demo Garden

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Deadlines are red

Other activities or events that don't fit into the above categories are black

7th Foundation General Membership Meeting 6pm to 9pm

9th Composting Workshop at CLP 10am

9th Herb Workshop at Dirt Works 10am

12th-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

13th Foundation Board Meeting 10am

14th-Master Gardener Graduation 5:30pm to 8:30pm

23rd Permaculture Part 1 Workshop at Dirt Works 10am

27th MRC Volunteer Meeting 5:30pm

30th Permaculture Part 2 Workshop at Dirt Works 10am

May

1st-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

3rd-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

4th OFM garden steering committee meeting

5th Secondhand Safari

9th Foundation Board Meeting 10am

17th-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

18th Plant Sale Evening Preview (Only for those who help work on prepping for the sale)

19th MGFTC Plant Sale & MG Training Class

25th -Newsletter deadline for June-July-August Edition

29th-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

31st-Master Gardener Training Class 5:30pm to 8:30pm

June

1st OFM garden steering committee meeting

2nd-Master Gardener Training Class 9:00am to 1:00pm

July

6th OFM garden steering committee meeting

11th Foundation Board Meeting 10am

14th Lacey Community Market 10am to 4pm

14th Composting Workshop at DW 10am

21st Lakefair Parade Recycling Brigade

28th Permaculture Part 1 Workshop at Dirt Works 10am

August

1st-5th Thurston County Fair

3rd OFM garden steering committee meeting

4th Permaculture Part 2 Workshop at Dirt Works 10am

8th Foundation Board Meeting 10am

9th Composting Workshop at OFMG 10am

11th Lacey Community Market 10am to 4pm

24th -Newsletter deadline for September-October-November Edition

26th Sand In The City 10am to 5pm

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Outreach events representing both programs are purple

Board or Committee meetings are orange

Deadlines are red

Other activities or events that don't fit into the above categories are black

September

6th MRC Class Training 6pm to 8:30pm

7th OFM garden steering committee meeting

8th Lacey Community Market 10am to 4pm

8th Composting Workshop at DW 10am

12th Foundation Board Meeting 10am

13th -15th WSU Master Gardener State Conference-Pasco, Washington

20th Foundation General Membership Meeting Potluck 5:30pm to 8pm

20th MRC Class Training 6pm to 8:30pm

22nd MRC Class Training Field Trip 9am to 1pm

October

1st 2013 MG Training Applications are now available

4th MRC Class Training 6pm to 8:30pm

5th OFM garden steering committee meeting

6th MRC Class Training Field Trip 9am to 1pm

10th Foundation Board Meeting 10am

11th MRC Class Training 6pm to 8:30pm

12th MRC Volunteer Field Trip

13th Composting Workshop at CLP 10am

16th MRC Class Training 6pm to 8:30pm

18th Foundation Sponsored BINGO Night 6pm to 9pm

30th Foundation Board 2013 Planning Retreat 10am

November

3rd Garden Committee Planning Retreat 10am to 3pm

14th Foundation Board Meeting 10am

15th Annual Awards Luncheon-Noon to 2pm

26th-newsletter deadline for Dec-Jan-February Edition

28th Foundation Board Budget and Annual Meeting Preparation 10am

December

8th Foundation Annual Meeting & Holiday Party 11am -2pm

12th Foundation Board Meeting 10am

KEY:

MG=Master Gardener

MRC=Master Recycler Composter

CLP=Closed Loop Park Demo Garden

DW=Dirt Works Demo Garden

OFM= Olympia Farmer's Market Demo Garden

2011 Award Recipients

Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County Sponsored Awards

Fundraising Award

Nancy Poultney

Wanda Cross

Advocacy Award

Cindy Cartwright

Bill Longnecker

Service Award

Pam Thayer

Toni Ghazal

Paul Munson

Plant Sale Leadership Award

Bob Findlay

Nancy Mills

Midge Price

Clothing

Roberta Nott

Cathy McFarland

Membership

Deb Welt

Website

Kathy Emory

Roy Emory

Honorary Master Gardener

Jim Zygar and Jo Evans from the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center



Exiting Board Member Service Award

Jackie White-President

Julianne Armstrong-Member At Large

Bill Longnecker-State Representative

Nancy Mills-President & Past President

Program Sponsored Awards

Emeritus

Carla Delducco-2000

Chris Lair-2001

Connie Roth-2004

Judy Wilson-1997

Years of Service Awards

5 year pin-

2006 – Shirley Erickson

2006 – Tim Erickson

2006 – Pauline Feuling

10 year pin-

2001—Chris Lair

2001- Kris Mansfield

2001- Kerry Norem

15 year pin-

1996- Tam Crocker

1996- Curt Rosler



2011 Award Recipients, Cont...

*Hour totals taken from online system.

50+ Hour Club*-

Rebecca Allen
Debra Ayers
Linda Bennett
Mary Boston
Bill Cather
Catherine Eddington
Susan Emley
Roy Emory
Sandra Gast
Toni Ghazal
Glenda Jackson
Bryan Ketola
Pat Lawrence
Bobbie Liberty
Linda Lufkin
Judy Lundgren
Mike McGee
Candace Messinger
Paula Nelson
John Perez
Sammie Preble
Bob Richards
Beth Rodman
Connie Roth
Barbara Smith
Cathy Strum
Phyllis Sturges
Carol Taylor
Pam Thayer



Jackie White
Jim Wilson
Shanna Winters

100+ Hour Club*

Sandy Atkinson
Wanda Cross
Pauline Feuling
Kathleen Hansson
Cindy Hoover
Penny Locke
Bill Longnecker
Kris Mansfield
BJ Matthews
Bob Obedzinski
Jeannine Pia
Midge Price
Joan Reitzwood
Jan Seguin

200+ Hour Club*

Bob Findlay
Norm Gallacci

300+ Hour Club*

Nancy Mills

Newly Certified MG's

Alisha Colbert
Kaleen Cottingham
Teresa Cowley



2011 Award Recipients, Cont...

Gale Cypher
 Margaret DesRochers
 Katherine Dudley
 Charlotte Dunahugh
 Warren Dunahugh
 Susan Emley
 Carol Hill
 Judy Holman
 Margot Milburn
 Dianna Moyer
 Donna Ogden
 Christine Parke
 Carol Pedigo
 Carol Piening
 Rory Sagner
 Carl Spurgeon
 Suzanne Victoria

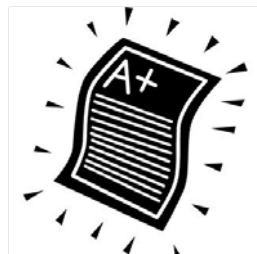
MG Intern Awards

First to Complete the Final Exam-
 Sue Huntley

Highest Average Score of Quizzes and Final Exam-Julie Sandberg with 97.42%

Scored 100% on the Final Exam-

Becky Biondi
 Sharon Borngesser
 Alisha Colbert
 Donna Compton
 Sandy Hallstrom



Donna Ogden
 Rory Sagner
 Julie Sandberg
 Cathy Stolberg
 Suzanne Victoria



First to complete their internship and turn in their timecard-Donna Ogden

Highest number of hours done in their internship- 157 Donna Ogden

2nd Highest number of hours done in their internship-115.5 Dianna Moyer

3rd highest number of hours done in their internship- 83 Margot Milburn & Suzanne Victoria

Grimiest Timecards- Alisha Colbert & Carol Hill

Service Awards

Foundation Board-

Jackie White President
 Nancy Mills Past President
 Toni Ghazal Vice President
 Diane Stanger-Treasurer
 Penny Locke-Secretary
 Julianne Armstrong- Member At Large
 Bill Longnecker- State Representative

2011 Award Recipients, Cont...

Garden Committees-

Closed Loop Park

Tam Crocker

Bobbie Liberty

Dorothy Seabourne-Taylor

Mary Snyder

Diane Stanger

Dirt Works

Linda Bennett

Cindy Cartwright

Brenda Curtis

Kathy Ekar

Bob Findlay

Paula Nelson

Shanna Winters

Olympia Farmers Market Garden

Sandy Atkinson

Mary Boston

Catherine Eddington

Linda Lufkin

Kris Mansfield

Composting Program Leader-

Shanna Winters

Compost Bin Sales Leader-

Bill Longnecker



Children's Garden Leader-

Cindy Cartwright

Busy Bee Award-

Joan Aspaas

Jeannine Pia

"Somebody's Got To Do It" Award-

CLP-Jan Seguin

DW- Bob Findlay

OFM- Catherine Eddington & Bruce Hargrave

Composting-Cindy Hoover

Program-Bev Postman & Connie Barclay

"Helping Hand" Award-

Bob Obedzinski

Paul Munson

"Great Advisor" Award-

Mike McGee

Bill Cather

Judy Wilson

"Silver Trowel" Award-

Shanna Winters

Newly Certified MRC's

Mike Holly

Lauri Martin



2011 Plant Sale Success!

PLANT SALE ANOTHER SUCCESS!

Saturday dawned frosty but dry with the promise of some sun. In anticipation of hoards of people arriving promptly at 10, Midge Price, Wanda Cross, Warren Dunahugh, Charlie Keck, Penny Locke, Donna Ogden, Barbara Smith, Suzanne Victoria and I arrived at 9:30 to finish some final touches. Barbara was loaded down with equipment including a kerosene heater that helped keep us reasonably warm throughout the day. Everyone brought food to share, and COFFEE was sufficiently abundant that we could even share some with patrons! Dianna Moyer (relief for Penny) arrived in the afternoon and it was fun to share some conversation with her as well.

A man from Chehalis arrived on schedule with a trailer and drove away with most of the Blue Spruce, Austrian Pine and even some French Blue Scotch Pine. We were all ecstatic to see these items be taken with the promise of being freed from their pots, finally. They are destined to be placed in yards in need of many (nearly 70!) lovely sentinels. Maybe we can take a trip to see them in a few years... (Continued on next page...)



2011 Plant Sale Success! (cont.)

Thanks to everyone who passed along the information about the sale; you helped make it yet another successful use of our volunteer time. We earned \$1176 which included \$96 in plant stakes.

We saw about 50 people come through the gates (including one couple on a motorcycle, fresh from the toy run downtown who did purchase a smoketree!), and they were all impressed with our selection of plants. We saw some perennials and shrubs leave as well, but our coffers remain relatively intact. That does not mean that we don't still need to do a great deal of potting up in the spring to make that sale equally successful! We will be taking a break this winter with occasional check-ups of the area to do some weather and weed patrol, but will be back sometime in February to start accepting your donations of plants being thinned from your gardens. Please keep us in mind as you dream your dreams over the winter of the new things you'll be placing in your yard. Keep your eyes peeled for an announcement here in the Flash of when we will be ready to start potting.



PLANT SALE POSTER PICTURE POLL

We're doing another poll this year in early January for the picture to be used on the plant sale poster. Please send your best plant themed digital photo to Nancy Mills (nancy@mgftc.org) **BY DECEMBER 28TH**. Depending on the number of responses, a selection of those submitted will be posted on the blog in a poll by the beginning of January.

If you want to vote, either subscribe to the blog at <http://wsungtc.wordpress.com> or look for the announcement in the Friday Flash.

Answers to Sustainable Gardening Handbook Trivia Quiz-Part Seven

Congratulations to **Todd Morgan** for receiving a 100% on last issue's quiz and winning a \$20 gift certificate to Lael's Moon Garden Nursery in Rochester! Thanks to all who participated, and please try again this issue!

Here are the answers:

- 1.) Uniform damage problems tend to be the result of non-living causes
 - A. True
- 2.) The following is always true of organic pesticides vs. synthetic pesticides
 - C. They must undergo the same federally required screening
- 3) Use of thinning cuts while pruning will not
 - C. Create a denser, more compact plant
- 4) Which of the following is not important in a vegetable garden site?
 - C. Trees nearby to provide shade
- 5) Amending soil with organic matter improves
 - D. All of the above (water-holding capacity, soil structure & nutrient retention)



What is This?

You can find the answer to this little quiz on page 20.

Visit this website, sent to us by Kathryn Ekar to watch a beautiful video of flowers.

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/27920977?title=0&%3bbyline=0&%3bportrait=0href=>





Sustainable Gardening Handbook Trivia Quiz-Part Eight

Give your best guess to the following questions and send them by Friday February 17th to:

Email: carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us

Mail: WSU Extension Office
or Attn: Master Gardener Trivia
5033 Harrison Ave. NW,
Olympia, WA 98502

Please include your name with your answers. Of those who answered them correctly one winner will receive a \$20 gift card to Lael's Moon Garden Nursery in Rochester. Happy Guessing!

Take a guess or you can find the answers in your Sustainable Gardening Handbook/MG Manual.

1) Summer-bearing raspberries produce fruit on first-year canes

- A. True
- B. False

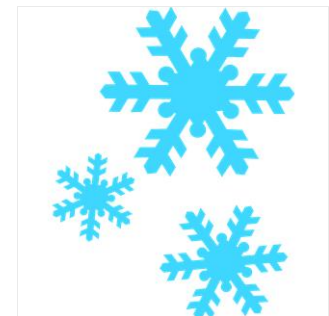
2) Thatch is primarily composed of:

- A. Grass clippings
- B. Grass stems and roots
- C. Soil minerals
- D. Accumulated leaves from not raking in the fall



3) Important considerations when choosing trees for a home orchard include:

- A. Variety selection
- B. Rootstock selection
- C. Pollination requirements
- D. All of the Above

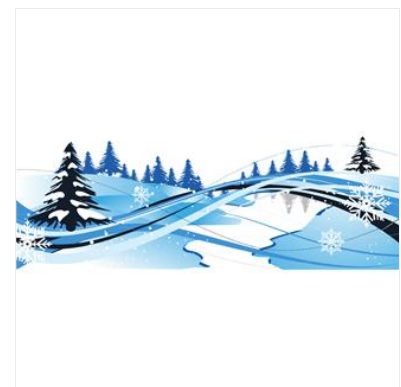


4) The advantages of using glass over other greenhouse coverings include (select all that apply):

- A. Light weight
- B. Greater longevity
- C. Less costly
- D. High light transmission

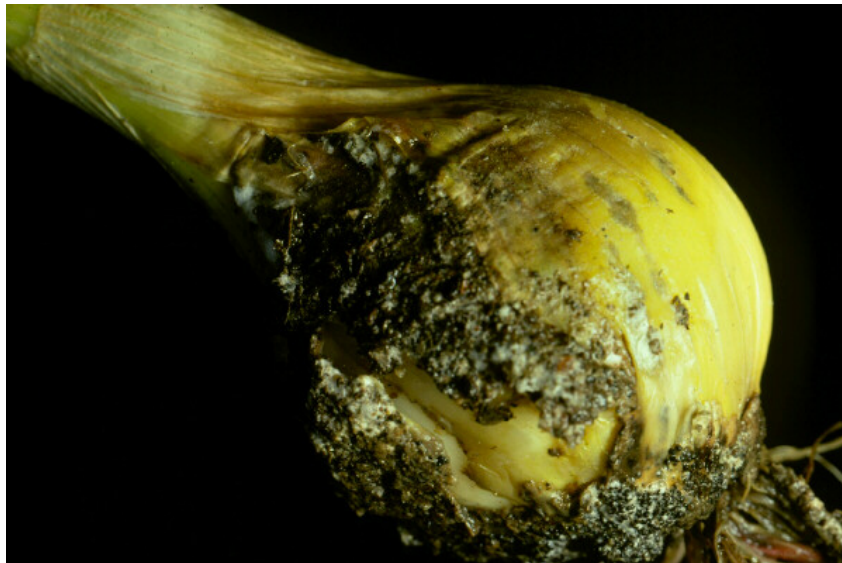
5) Low pH is an important factor in the production of:

- A. Blackberries
- B. Blueberries
- C. Gooseberries
- D. Strawberries



What's Wrong with this Plant?

A new feature for the newsletter will highlight a photo of a plant problem. First identify the plant and then the problem. The answer will be listed in the next issue of the newsletter. Have fun problem solving and in the process learn something new too!



Answer to last issues question: Frost Damage

Biology

Frost can damage new growth and flowers in the spring. Severity and distribution will depend on stage of plant development and where plants are growing; low-lying areas often act as frost pockets. Symptoms may develop some time after exposure and typically include wilting and dieback of affected tissues. Damage is most often seen to buds, flowers, and at stem tips, where tender young tissues are more susceptible to injury.



Management Options

Select Non-chemical Management Options as Your First Choice!!

Cover susceptible plants prior to frost. Light-weight floating row cover fabrics are one option, but blankets, cardboard boxes, newspaper, or other materials may also be used. Remove frost covers when the temperature moderates. Frost covers left on plants long-term can create moist conditions that favor disease development.

What to Do in Your Garden in Dec., Jan. & Feb.

DECEMBER

Garden essentials:

- Prune evergreens for holiday decorations. Don't leave pruning stubs! Finish planting bulbs.
- Force pots of paperwhite narcissus.
- Continue transplanting.

Veggies year-round:

- Mulch paths with wood chips to keep feet drier.
- Ask for a cold frame to extend your gardening season!
- Be grateful for the blessing of harvests.

Lawn care:

- Do winter fertilization if you didn't complete this task in late November.
- Rake leaves and litter off lawn.

JANUARY

Garden essentials:

- Yank vigorous winter weeds.
- Prune trees and shrubs, removing diseased or storm-damaged wood.
- Lightly water and fertilize indoor plants.
- Remember that plants contribute essential oxygen, reduce problem noise, feed and shelter wildlife, cool and shade urban spaces, and reduce human stress.

Veggies year-round:

- Puget Sound area gardeners can eat produce fresh from the garden nearly year-round. Draw your food garden master plan, rotating crop locations from last year. Crops planted in succession will keep harvests coming.

Lawn care:

- Sharpen mower blades and tune up mower.
- Don't walk on soggy or frozen grass.

Healthy lawns compete with moss, which infests shady, compacted or stressed turf. Lime won't eliminate moss.

FEBRUARY

Garden essentials:

- Early February often brings deep cold. Don't uncover roses, prune or plant when temperatures drop below freezing.
- On mild days, plant bare-root roses and fruit trees.
- Mid-month, pull mulch partly away from emerging bulbs and perennials; hunt hidden slugs.
- Bring pots of hardy bulbs into warmth and light for early bloom.

Veggies year-round:

- Start broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower indoors under a fluorescent shop light.
- At month's end, move starts into a cold frame or sheltered outdoor location to toughen.

Lawn care:

- Starlings pecking at turf help remove soil pests such as crane fly larvae.

Check lawn for standing puddles. Correct drainage, or replace lawn with better adapted ground covers.

Visit <http://gardening.wsu.edu> for more helpful tips.

Dirt Works Garden

Greetings from Dirt Works!

Are you composting this winter? Composting in winter can be great fun, flipping compost that is steaming hot can be one of the most affirming garden activities of the winter. The trick is how to get it hot, and keep it hot in the winter. Winter provides us with many of the carbon materials needed in compost, commonly called the browns. Leaves from trees are my absolute favorite compost material. They breakdown so well that my compost will be great in March or April when I need it. My basic recipe for one cubic yard of compost is to mix 1/3 greens (nitrogen) with 2/3 carbons (browns), and water, water, water. In the winter I will often add manure to the compost as part of the nitrogen to really get it hot. This compost will be ready to be added to my vegetable beds in spring, having rested (aged) as recommended by the Master Recycler Composter training.

Manures are hot enough to overcome any freezing, and you will have great compost in spring. I will often add coffee grounds to my compost as I turn it, this will add a burst of nitrogen to kick start the heat again that may be lost when I turn the bin. A good topper to help hold in the heat, cardboard, plastic bags, or a thick layer of coffee grounds. So keep composting, and call me if you have chickens, goats, or rabbits and need a friend!

Shanna Winters
Dirt Works

What is This? Answer

It's a Christmas Cactus flower!
Cylindropuntia leptocaulis.





Olympia Farmers Market Garden

Olympia Farmers Market Garden

Have you ever seen a seedhead swaying in the breeze on a snow-covered winter day? Maybe a hungry bird flew in looking for a quick snack. Who says the winter garden is boring?

As another year comes to a close, I would like to take a look back to celebrate what we accomplished. I also like to compare this year's garden to those of previous years so we at least can attempt to plan for the next year.

We had a wet, cool spring, which was mostly wonderful for the garden-no tulips were nipped by frost. And of course the Astilbe flourished. We didn't have to water to get them full and lush. All in all the garden performed wonderfully this year. However, our plot is limited and many of the plants have outgrown their intended space. We do have an area that is not being used to its full potential and Julia our new Americorp volunteer has come up with a vision. We are in the planning stage of developing our large "retention pond" into a rain garden. Right now it is ringed by Arctic Willows and Rosa Rugosa. Down in the bottom grows native Spiraea, with some Pampas grass along one side. Each year at clean up these plants are pruned back but by August the pond is so overgrown you can barely see our Blue Heron statue that lives in there. I am excited to see the possibilities for this spot in the garden.

We have a new arbor at one of the market entrances to the garden. The original arbor was made of fir branches and over time rotted away. Then came the wind to finish it off. Half blew down last spring and the rest came down this fall. Now the Virginia Creeper has new support.

After years of positive attitudes, patience and endless support one of our steering committee members has decided to step down. Mary Boston will be leaving the OFM steering committee (not leaving the master gardener program) and we would like to welcome Bruce Hargrave. Bruce has been volunteering at OFM for a few years now and we are looking forward to partnering with him.

Mark your calendars! Garden clean up at OFM will be March 3rd or March 17th, depending on the weather. As always, we will have hot coffee, cookies and soup. Bring your favorite garden tools and dress for the weather. We always have a good time! Watch for more information in the Friday Flash.

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who volunteered at the market garden this season.



2011 Master Recycler Composter Graduation!

Finally the Master Recycler and Master Composter programs have merged, and in October we celebrated our very first combined graduation as the 2011 MRC training drew to a close. Pomp and Circumstance abounded!

Congratulations to our new interns!





2011 Annual Awards Ceremony Photos

A special thanks to everyone who braved the yet again crazy weather and came out to this year's awards ceremony! And of course thanks to all who gave their time and dedication this year to helping and strengthening our community! This program would not exist without you!



From the Desk of AmeriCorps—Julia Palmer

Happy December!

First of all I want to send out my gratitude to everyone who helped me get settled here in Olympia, and to all who offered me all sorts of goodies for my new home. I truly appreciate your generosity and it feels so good to be in the company of giving hands after such a big life change. It has been so nice getting to know you all, and for those I have not yet met, hopefully that will happen soon.



The past few months have been busy with orientation, AmeriCorps trainings, MG & MRC events, and lots of project and workshop planning for the upcoming season. My AmeriCorps position falls under the category of environmental stewardship and so a large portion of my job involves making improvements to each of our three demonstration gardens, so I'd like to briefly fill you in on what some of my plans are. For Dirt Works I will be building an herb spiral to demonstrate the importance of microclimates and using space (horizontal and vertical) efficiently in the garden. I believe it will also be a beautiful structure and a useful demonstration of a different way to grow all types of herbs. At Closed Loop Park I will be focusing on forging a more positive relationship with the new Dog Park community in order to draw more visitors into the garden. To do this I'll be designing an informative sign and pamphlets displaying information about safe and poisonous plants for dogs, which will hopefully be less off-putting than the current "No Dogs Allowed" signs. Finally, at the OFM Garden I will be developing plans for a rain garden to be installed at a later date when funds and time are in greater supply. The rain garden will be located in the drainage area adjacent to the garden and will help to divert and process storm-water runoff from the market and garden before it re-enters our waterways. It will be great to demonstrate this method at such a high traffic area in Olympia. If you would like to get involved with any of these projects please send me an e-mail at palmerj@co.thurston.wa.us or just stay posted for an e-mail from me sometime in early spring. Several work parties will certainly be in order.

I am also happy to announce that I will be teaching an herb workshop as well as two permaculture design workshops this coming summer. To help me prepare, and to offer resources to the community, the West Olympia clinic has added three wonderful permaculture books to its library, so come on in and check them out if you would like to learn more. Or you can come in and find me; I am always up for chatting about permaculture design.

Well, I certainly have a lot on my plate for this coming year but I eager to get started! I am also looking forward to my trip back home to NY for the holidays. After that it is full speed ahead!

I hope you all have a fantastic holiday season and are ready for an exciting year! ~Julia

Time to Re-examine Your Garden

By: Holly Kennell,

**Community Horticulture Agent for Snohomish County
Regional Garden Column January**

The New Year seems to invite self-examination and, like many people, I usually make a few resolutions. Sometimes our landscapes also need a critical examination and a few improvements. Winter is the perfect time to do this, since you can see the bones or structure of the landscape without as many leaves and flowers to distract you.

The first thing to remember is that a landscape is not meant to be a static thing. Plants grow. Builders often put in a lot of plants to make a new house look less stark. In some cases, if they all grew to maturity, you wouldn't be able to find the house in their midst. This situation may call for a little judicious thinning or a major chainsaw massacre.

Sometimes we make mistakes and put a plant where it doesn't fit. Rather than try to prune that camellia back to 5 feet every year, so you can see out the window, maybe it's time to replace it with something naturally low-growing. Trees planted too close to the house are a common mistake.

Not only do the plants change, but so do your family's needs. I've known people who still have a kiddy swing set in the yard, when their children are in their teens. Why not use that space for the cutting garden or outdoor barbeque area that you have always wanted?

A good place to begin your landscape critique is from the inside of your house. After all, you spend lots more time inside than outside, especially in the winter. Gaze out the windows of the rooms in which you spend the majority of your time. What does your garden look like from there? Does it need a focal point, more layers, or perhaps a ground cover to keep down weeds?

The best view of my garden is from the bedroom and, of course, most of my time in that room is spent with my eyes shut. I'm determined that my next house will be much more sensibly arranged relative to the garden!

Another place from which to conduct an evaluation is the street or entry area of your property. What kind of first impression does your landscape make? You want it full and interesting without being cluttered or overpowering. Pathways should be wide enough for two people to walk abreast. Ground covers creeping over paths soften the lines, but shrubs encroaching on walkways get passersby wet after a rain.

Continued on the next page →

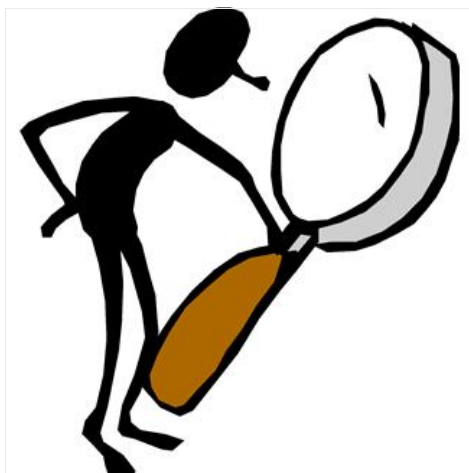
Time to Re-examine Your Garden (cont.)

Walk around the house. Do you have a spot where you have privacy, but don't feel confined? Are there benches at strategic locations, so that you can sit and enjoy the garden? Could you install a few lights and enjoy the garden more on warm evenings? Have you provided for food, water and cover for wildlife?

Sometimes more screening is needed to hide an ugly tool shed, the compost piles or the garbage cans. Maybe you're tired of looking at the neighbor's boat or satellite dish. Plant, plant, plant.

On the other hand, some people are lucky enough to be able to "borrow landscape." If your neighbor has a tree that has spectacular spring blooms or glorious fall color, by all means take advantage of it. Cut a break in your shrubbery or limb up your trees, so you can enjoy it. The same is obviously true if there is any chance you could get a view of the water, mountains or even some distance. Realtors call this latter a "territorial" view and it's valuable, so don't block it.

Last but not least, is there some winter interest in your garden? I have plants with berries, plants with interesting bark and plants with winter blooms and I still want to do more. The pink-flowered shrub, *Viburnum bodnantense*, and the yellow-flowered winter jasmine vine, *Jasminum nudiflorum* are in bloom right now. I just added Cyclamen coum, a tiny, winter-blooming ground cover. Four-season interest is a worthy goal for us all.



Pointers for Pruners

By Carol Savonen, Oregon State University
Source: Stephen Renquist, Oregon State University

Pruning woody landscape plants is daunting to many property owners, who may wonder if all plants should be pruned alike.

People who are unsure of what to do tend to approach pruning only as a size control process, according to Steve Renquist, a horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. Renquist has advice to those who feel baffled by pruning the woody ornamentals in their yard.



"Pruning is both art and science and not something most of us get training in," said Renquist. "Pruning should both enhance a plant's natural beauty and form, and keep the plant vigorous and productive whether it is a flowering tree, shrub, or a fruit tree."

When working with shrubs Renquist offers a couple of rules to follow to get started on good pruning practices:

First, learn the two types of cuts used on shrubs – heading cuts that remove ends of branches to make the plant denser and thinning cuts that remove entire branches or canes to give the plant a more open form.

Second, learn what the natural shape or habit is for each shrub in your landscape. There is good information in gardening books, including those published by Sunset and others. Mound-forming shrubs, such as Abelia or Escallonia, need thinning cuts near the ground level. Remove tall shoots that tower above the mound form. Don't shear mound-forming shrubs or they will become too dense.

Cane forming shrubs, including Forsythia and lilac, should be allowed to reach their natural height. Then, every year, use thinning cuts and take out one-eighth to one-fifth of the canes, preferably the oldest.

If you have to reduce the height of a tree, use a thinning cut to remove the tallest limbs in their entirety. If an old tree is causing you some concern, you can take weight off without topping in this manner.

Pointers for Pruners cont...

If you have to reduce the height of a tree, use a thinning cut to remove the tallest limbs in their entirety. If an old tree is causing you some concern, you can take weight off without topping in this manner.

Upright or tree-like shrubs, like rhododendrons or Pieris, usually need little pruning and will look best when thinned slightly every few years. Save heading cuts for hedges, where tight compact growth is desirable.

Flowering shrubs and trees require a little more thought before pruning if you want them to bloom nicely each year. Most importantly, consider when these plants bloom; if they bloom in late winter or spring you want to prune after bloom. If they bloom in summer or fall you want to prune during dormancy in winter.

Never cut the top out of a tree. Topping destroys a tree's natural beauty and weakens it structurally. When planting trees, plan ahead and put them in a location that matches their natural height. That way, they won't need topping when they reach your eave or power line.

Think before you plant a new tree, advised Renquist. Shade trees need open sky and plenty of distance from a home to avoid damage by falling or dropping limbs. Small flowering trees fit under power lines or close to a structure.

If you have to reduce the height of a tree, use a thinning cut to remove the tallest limbs in their entirety. If an old tree is causing you some concern, you can take weight off without topping in this manner.

To learn more about pruning ornamentals, shade trees, or fruit trees check out these great books and publications:

- Guide to Pruning by Cass Turnbull
- American Horticultural Society Pruning & Training (American Horticultural Society Practical Guides) by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce

WSU pruning publications, download many for free from <https://pubs.wsu.edu>

Once at the site enter "pruning" or the below document ID into the search box.

- PNW400 Training and Pruning Your Home Orchard-Free download and newly revised in July 2011.
- EB1619 Pruning Your Landscape Trees-Free download.
- FS061E Tree Topping: A Practice to Avoid-Free download and newly revised in November 2011.

2012 WSU Master Gardener Class Training Information

Spread the word....

The new 2012 applications are available online at our website (<http://county.wsu.edu/thurston>). An email alert has been sent to everyone whose name is on our interest list. We will also be mailing them to folks who requested it.

Applicants accepted into the WSU Master Gardener Training Program attend twenty two weeks of classes either in person or by using the on-line training program. For 2012, training will begin on February 2, 2012 and finish on June 14, 2012. Half of these weeks they will be doing their assignments at home on their own time. The other half of the time they will be meeting to hear a presenter speak, take a field trip or to do a hands-on activity/lesson. They will be expected to take bi-weekly on-line quizzes. These quizzes are not for grading purposes but for retention of new material learned.

For the first time since 2003 classes will be held in the evening/Saturday morning on the following 2012 dates:

February 2, 7, 9, 23, 25

March 6, 8, 22, 24

April 3, 5, 19, 21

May 1, 3, 17, 19, 29, 31

June 2, 12, 14

The Tuesday/Thursday classes will be from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. The once a month Saturday class will be from 9am to 1pm.

Volunteer Service Internship: In addition to class and on-line training time all interns are required to complete 60 hours of volunteer service within their internship period. Interns who attend all training sessions, complete on-line training sessions, and complete their volunteer service hours will become a certified WSU Master Gardener. These conditions are not applicable for those in the Non-Volunteer Track.

Training Materials: All training materials are included in your \$275 class fee. This includes your on-line class registration fee, WSU Master Gardener online manual, and other publications/handouts. This fee also covers all room rental fees, speaker fees, bus fees and lesson supplies. You will also receive a name tag that we ask you to wear at all times during training and other WSU Master Gardener functions.

Computer Technology: The use of computer technology is now a mandatory element of the WSU Master Gardener Training Program. Trainees must have access to the internet (including an e-mail address), preferably with high-speed connection.

Continued on the next page →

2012 WSU Master Gardener Class Training Information

Applicants will be asked to fill out an application and bring it with them to one of the pre-orientation sessions in January. These pre-orientations will explain what it means to be a WSU Master Gardener, the time commitment involved, and to see if the our program is a right fit for you. After attending a pre-orientation they can decide if they want to turn in their application or not.

Pre-Orientation Sessions

January 4th from 5:30pm to 7:00pm

January 17th from 5:30pm to 7:00pm

No pre-registration needed. Sessions are held at the WSU Extension Office conference room. See application for directions.

Once we review their applications we will contact those who best fit our program needs and interests. Since a good portion of the class will be on-line, having computer access will be a determining factor if they will be part of the 2012 class. This will be stated in the application.

Applications are due to the office by Friday, January 20, 2012.

MENTORS NEEDED

I will be posting the mentor job description, in the Friday Flash, for those who may be interested in becoming a mentor for the 2012 MG training class. Mentors are an essential part to the new class training.



Think about what it meant for you to have a mentor through your initial training process. What did you enjoy about your mentor and what would you have had them do differently?

Mentors are asked to participate in an orientation session so that we are all on the same page. This training will be done on January 5, 2012 from 10am to Noon.

You will have an opportunity to make a difference in the life of an intern and have lots of fun doing so. If you are interested please contact Cori.

Master Gardener Foundation Membership News

THE MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF THURSTON COUNTY wants you and yours to grow with us! Join the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County and assist us in supporting environmental health through advocating sound and sustainable horticultural practices for Thurston County.

Who we are:

The Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County (MGFTC) is a non-profit [501(C) (3)] organization committed to supporting and raising funds for:

- WSU Master Gardener Program and Master Composter Program in Thurston County
- Diagnostic Clinics
- Our three Demonstration Gardens
- Gardening workshops and educational programs

Members receive:

- Bimonthly news letter (via email)
- Notice of garden activities and events
- Educational and travel opportunities through our Activities and Events program at reduced prices
- Master Gardener CE units for attending educational events
- Great opportunities to cultivate friendships with other like-minded gardeners and composters

Foundation voting privileges

Membership:

Membership is open to all who have an interest in supporting the purposes and goals of the MGFTC. You do not have to be a Master Gardener or Master Composter to be a member of the foundation. Pick the membership that's right for you and return the attached application form with dues to MGFTC Membership, 5033 Harrison Ave., NW, Olympia, WA 98502. Do not send cash. Or you may drop off at the WSU Extension Office at the above address. Remember, enclose the completed membership forms and payment for yourself and any one else that you know who would like to join us. Forms are available on-line at www.mgftc.org and click **Membership and Meetings** on the left side bar...it's that easy. A membership application is on the following page.

Help us support a network that cultivates knowledgeable gardening and promotes economic well-being and quality of life for Thurston County citizens.

Deborah Welt, MGFTC Membership Chairperson

Master Gardener Foundation Membership Application

Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

“Helping Gardeners Grow”

5033 Harrison Ave. NW

Olympia, WA 98502

Membership and Sponsor Application

I wish to be an Individual (MG/MC) or Associate Member of the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County.

Dues of \$10 PS calendar year (Jan-Dec) are enclosed. Individual and Associate members may vote and hold elective office. They may attend Member Meetings, classes and events at no or reduced charge.

I /we wish to be a Business Member of the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County.

Dues of \$25 per calendar year (Jan-Dec) are enclosed. Business members may vote and hold elective office. They may attend Member Meetings, classes and events at no or reduced charge.

I /we wish to be a Sponsor of the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County at the level designated below.

A check is enclosed. Sponsor names will be mentioned in the next issue of the newsletter unless otherwise specified. Sponsors will receive a letter acknowledging their tax-deductible contribution.

Friend: \$50 - \$99

Donor: \$100 - \$249

Patron: \$250 - \$499

Benefactor: \$500 - \$1000+

The Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation organized and existing under the provisions of the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act (Chapter 24:03 of the Revised code of Washington) with Tax ID# 91-1898726. Your contributions are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Today's Date: _____

Name/Business Name: _____ Year MG _____ Year MC _____

I prefer to have my/our name listed as: _____

Address: _____ City, State and ZipCode _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

I prefer to be contacted with Foundation business information (newsletter, notification of special meetings, etc.) by:

E-mail Letter

Make checks payable to: “MGFTC” Mail to: MGFTC Attn. Membership

5033 Harrison Ave. NW

Olympia, WA 98502

Interests: Please tell us the areas which interest you:


Plant Sale Foundation Board Newsletter Composting

Publicity Website Fundraising

Skills: Please let us know of any special skills or interests you have and may like to share: _____

Computer Accounting Grant Writing Legal Crafts Artist Leadership Teaching Design

Heavy Machines Plumbing/Irrigation Electrical



The Common Sense Gardener
WSU Thurston County Extension
5033 Harrison Ave NW
Olympia, WA 98502

All WSU Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin; physical, mental or sensory disability; marital status, sexual orientation, and status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension Office.

Volunteer Snapshot - December/January/February

Master Gardeners and Master Recycler Composters have many talents to share with the public and with each other. One of those talents is photography! Whether it's a hobby or a profession, you all have fabulous garden photos to share. If you would like to have one of your photo's highlighted in one of the upcoming newsletters please send a print to the office or by email at carltoc@co.thurston.wa.us.



Bellevue Botanical Gardens Festival D'Lights

If you want submit a short caption with your photo to describe the image. If you submit a print please make sure you have your name on back of the photo and state if you would like it returned or not. Thanks!