

MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION  
OF  
THURSTON COUNTY

## Vol. 1, Issue 4: October-December 2020

**FIRST AND FOREMOST:** Autumn with its rains and windstorms has arrived. Our summer of separations, tensions, and distractions has fallen behind us. The last roses of summer have withered; the hydrangea blooms are fading. Trees are beginning to shed red, brown, and yellow leaves. Here and there in the intermittent fall sunshine, asters and dahlias still brighten our days. For a month or two, planters filled with red, yellow, and purple chrysanthemums will blaze with color.

For some gardeners, as the season of growth and bloom end, autumn can be a melancholy time. But it is important to remember our delights with the first blooms of favorite flowers, the cast of sunlight on foliage, the sense that we have had a hand in assisting nature in its annual renewal of life. And now it is the time to rest and warmly reflect on the past and to prepare for spring. Envisioning and planning for our gardens and planting those early spring flowering tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils are easy antidotes for the gray days ahead. As people who nurture plants, we have much to look forward to.

As we hunker down and put vegetable gardens to rest, we need to remember the ever-present threat of the COVID-19 virus. In the midst of a surge of cases, we need to double down on wearing masks, keeping our distances, and always washing hands, avoiding crowds, and planning our days to prevent getting infected. The best way to enjoy nature's promises of next spring and summer is to be there, healthy and raring to go with dirt stained hands and green thumbs. Please continue to be safe to protect yourselves and the friends and family you want to spend time with once this pandemic is behind us.

### WHAT'S NEW...

- Fall Plant Sale. The Foundation's plant sale at the nursery in Dirt Works in Yauger Park continues until October 31. The nursery is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but you have to make an appointment to pick and buy plants from a great selection. To set up your appointment contact Midge Price at [midgemillerprice@comcast.net](mailto:midgemillerprice@comcast.net). Only Foundation members, Master Gardeners or Master Recycler Composters can shop at the nursery. Due to COVID-19 restrictions only ten people will be allowed in the nursery at any time and no family members or friends who are not Foundation members, MGs or MRCs can accompany shoppers. Only payment with exact cash (no change available) or check will be accepted.
- Virtual Tool and Handicraft Shopping. Do a little early Christmas shopping or stock up on tools and handicrafts that you want to give yourself this fall. Just use the internet to

shop at [www.mgftc.org/sales/](http://www.mgftc.org/sales/). There is a wide variety of things to check out, everything from plant cages to worm bins to bird baths. Don't forget the tools such as lawn bags and hand rakes---perfect for cleaning up those leaves before they smother the lawn or your delicate plants. And now, with each tool order of \$35 or more you will receive a free tube of yard glove cream. How can you beat that? While you are on the Master Gardener Foundation website home page, just click on "sales" on the bar at the top of the page and then click on "Go to the shopping page." It is easy and fun, and the bargains are great. Plus, you are helping fund the Foundation.

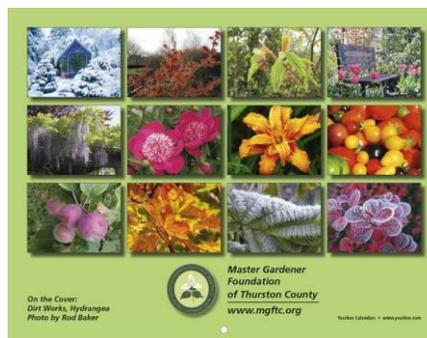
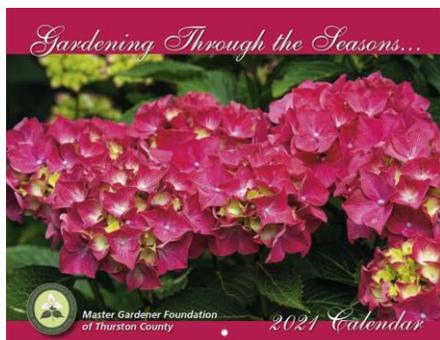
- CERVIS. The Master Gardener and Master Recycler Composter Programs are beginning to use a new system for scheduling and registering volunteers for various program events. Though its name may sound like something to do with a tennis game or restaurant wait staff, CERVIS is software that will make program administration a lot easier for Cori and Jenni. It is easy to learn and use. Complete instructions have been provided in the Friday Flash. As soon as you can, please follow the directions from Cori Carlton in the Friday Flash. Create your volunteer profile, and take it from there. The CERVIS program will be our new way of signing up for volunteer work and projects, just as ZOOM meetings are a new way of communicating.
- Speaking of ZOOM. Many of our Foundation, Master Gardener, and Master Recycler Composter meetings are being held via ZOOM. It is likely that most of our meetings over the next four to six months will be held using ZOOM or a similar internet based program. If you have not been joining the meetings we've had, maybe it is time for you to become familiar with ZOOM so you can easily use it. Use this website to familiarize yourself with ZOOM: <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardeneing/>. To find out how to set up a free ZOOM account go to: <https://youtu.be/dim2rOV--zg> .
- The Foundation is Looking for a Few Good People. Foundation officer elections will be coming up at the end of the year. We are looking for members who would like to step up and fill positions for President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer-Elect. You can find descriptions of these jobs by going to <http://www.mgftc.org/about-us/foundation-documents/> . These positions are described in a document titled MGFTCJob-DescrPol\_Final0518.pdf. If you are interested in serving, please contact Charley Barron at [charleybarron2019@gmail.com](mailto:charleybarron2019@gmail.com) or Barb Baker at [president@mgftc.org](mailto:president@mgftc.org) .
- Its Award Time. This has been a difficult year. But through it all some members have really shined for their outstanding work in keeping our programs moving along. You know who they are, and now it is time to recognize them. The Foundation Board is asking our members for nominations for the following awards:
  - Fund Raising Award: for member(s) who made outstanding efforts in the area of fund-raising and brought positive recognition to the Foundation and significant monetary gain to the organization.
  - Advocacy Award: for member(s) who have demonstrated outstanding effort in bringing positive public attention to the Thurston County Master Gardener and/or Master Recycler Composter Programs.

- Service Award: presented to members who have given outstanding service to the Organization.
- Honorary Master Gardener Certification Award: recognizes folks who are not Master Gardeners but have given recognizable service to the Thurston County Master Gardener and/or Master Recycler Composter Programs.

To nominate someone contact either Sharon Parsons at [member-at-large@mgftc.org](mailto:member-at-large@mgftc.org) or Barb Baker at [president@mgftc.org](mailto:president@mgftc.org) by November 10<sup>th</sup>. When you nominate someone please provide your name, the name of your nominee, the award for which you are submitting your nomination, and your reasons for the nomination. The awards recipients will be honored at this year's Foundation annual meeting on December 10th. The annual meeting will be a ZOOM event.

**ITS ABOUT TIME TO GET THOSE CALENDARS.** The Foundation is pleased to announce their new fundraiser, the 2021 MGFTC Calendar – *Gardening Through the Seasons!* The calendar is a wall calendar celebrating the three Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens in Thurston County. Beautiful photographs capture the gardens throughout the four seasons. In addition, each month has several gardening tips appropriate for the month. The calendar is 8.5 by 17 inches when open and has ample space for writing notes on each date.

The cost per calendar is \$15. Calendars may be ordered on the MGFTC website under the Sales tab at the top of the Home page, and payment can be made using PayPal, a credit or debit card or with a check payable to MGFTC. For small quantity of calendars (1 up to 10) you may elect to have the calendars mailed to you with a nominal postage cost added to the order. For small orders as an option and for all larger orders (more than 10 calendars), arrangements can be made with a MGFTC Calendar Committee member to arrange pickup of your order with no postage costs. For more information please contact Barb Baker at [President@mgftc.org](mailto:President@mgftc.org).



This calendar would make a great gift for a gardener or for anyone that loves flowers.

## RECAPS...

- Fantastic Fundraiser. In place of the cancelled “Blooming Bingo,” on September 10, the Foundation held a virtual fundraiser featuring “Gardening Trivia with Marianne Binetti.” There were great prizes and some amazing gardening tips from Marianne. The Foundation

raised over \$2000 with this ZOOM event. Thank you to all who participated and organized this event!

- Changes. On September 22, the Foundation asked members to approve an update to the Foundation's Article of Incorporation to change the organization's agent and address. This amendment was necessary to keep the organization's official documents current. The second measure will have greater impact on members because it allows the Foundation to hold virtual meetings using internet software programs such as ZOOM or Skype. This heralds a significant change in how Foundation business may be conducted in the future--the result of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
- And Finally, Once Again. Please do all that you can to keep yourself, your family, and friends and even strangers safe from the COVID virus. Follow the guidelines, be careful. Protect others so that next year with a little luck and mutual care we can all meet together in some wonderful garden (with, of course, the appropriate compost bins) and celebrate that this deadly disease is finally behind us.
- Contact the Editor. If you have suggestions for improving this newsletter, an idea for a news item, or if you want to take issue with something in Roots n Shoots, please contact the editor at [newsletter@mgftc.org](mailto:newsletter@mgftc.org) .