



# ROOTS n SHOOTS



MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION  
OF  
THURSTON COUNTY

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**WELCOME SPRING!** With a year of Covid isolation and the snow and frost of winter followed by the recent warm weather, the words of the late English musician and poet George Harrison come to mind: "...it's been a long cold lonely winter, ...it seems like years since it's been here, (but) here comes the sun, here comes the sun, and I say it's all right." Harrison lived in Friar Park, a Victorian-Gothic mansion built in 1889, at Henley-on-Thames west of London. The estate is surrounded by gardens that Harrison personally tended. He knew the comfort of springtime sunshine as he weeded and trimmed. His widow, Olivia, wrote in a 2011 biography that Harrison once said, "Sometimes I feel like I'm actually on the wrong planet, and it's great when I'm in my garden. But the minute I go out the gate I think: What the hell am I doing here?" For those of us who tend plants, like George Harrison we find tranquility and comfort in the smell of the soil, the promise of new growth, and the joy of planting. And, on those first few sunny days of spring when we feel the sunshine on our shoulders, we know that everything in the garden will be "all right." We hope that all is right with you and yours, and your garden, too.

## **CRITICAL INFORMATION.**

**The WSU Volunteer Hour Database is Failing. Do not use it to record your volunteer hours.** The system for recording your Master Gardener and Master Recycler Composter volunteer hours does not work the way it used to. Sometimes it either loses or does not record your entries. Occasionally, it will deny you access. This computer program is ten years old and has come to the end of its useful life. To preserve your record of 2021 volunteer hours, please take the following steps:

- Log on to the WSU Volunteer Database just as you would to record volunteer hours.
- If you successfully log on, Great! On the menu on the left of the screen, under "Volunteers" click on "Report My Hours."
- A new screen should appear showing "Program County" as Thurston, "Program" as Master Gardeners. Make sure the "Beginning Date" is 1/1/2021 and the "End Date" is 12/31/2021. If these dates do not appear, adjust the dates accordingly. Then click on "Go."
- A screen showing a report of your activities should appear. Using your computer mouse, highlight the report; then click on the highlighted area; a menu pops up---

choose print. If you do not have a computer mouse, when the report appears you can use the computer keyboard. Just press the control key and the letter “p” key at the same time Then press enter when the print preview screen comes up.

- You should now have a printed report. Check it for accuracy. It is possible that some of your entries were not saved by the system. Make any corrections or additions by hand on your printed copy and save it.
- For all future record keeping until a new system is put in place, create your own log of volunteer hours and for each event list the date, beginning and end times, total time, and type of activity. You can make a hand-written list of your hours or you may wish to create a spreadsheet using a computer program, such as Excel.
- Keep these records in a safe place. It is possible you may need to re-enter all of this information in a new database later this year, or you may need to send in a copy of your records.
- **Friday Flash Only Available through CERVIS**. If you have not been getting an email with the Friday Flash attached, it may be that you have not created your profile in the new CERVIS volunteer management system. Or, if you have a CERVIS profile, it may be that the email address you provided is no longer correct. If you are not getting the Friday Flash, please contact Cori Carlton or Jenni Post. The Friday Flash is being sent out only via email through the CERVIS system. The Friday Flash will no longer be posted on the Thurston County Master Gardener/Recycler Composter Facebook page.
- **Use the New CERVIS System to Sign Up for Volunteer Work**. The need for volunteers for certain work projects will be announced in the Friday Flash. We are still working under COVID-19 restrictions on the number of people that can work in a limited area. MG’s and MRC’s should not “just show up” at work sites. Please use CERVIS to register for work at a specific demonstration garden or other volunteer activity. This way we can better ensure that the right number of volunteers are going to be at a work site at any given time while limiting their potential exposure to the COVID viruses. Directions for signing up for a volunteer activity are on TOSS (see below) or you can click on the following link to watch the directions video prepared by Jenni Post:  
[https://zoom.us/rec/share/sWHufWfeA6gNZtyAaVYWOq-8Rfn\\_Xo1CpHGtwvs2UMReYRrSkk7Ugiwp10H6pMa2.cBPT6KfYDPxyYM7u?startTime=1616724094000](https://zoom.us/rec/share/sWHufWfeA6gNZtyAaVYWOq-8Rfn_Xo1CpHGtwvs2UMReYRrSkk7Ugiwp10H6pMa2.cBPT6KfYDPxyYM7u?startTime=1616724094000)
- **Speaking of Volunteer Opportunities...** Check out the CERVIS roster of volunteer work party opportunities. Between now and the end of June there about 500 volunteer spots to fill for nine work parties to be held on multiple dates ranging from a Dirt Works Food Bank Work Party to Composting at Dirt Works. Through the end of May there is an urgent need for volunteers to help clean up the Olympia Farmers Market Garden and to maintain the Closed Loop Park Garden. Take a look at the available volunteer opportunities and register for a couple activities you would like to help with.
- **TOSS is Here!** Everything you need to know about volunteer policies and procedures, resources, and other important information about the WSU Master Gardener and Thurston County Master Recycler Composter programs you can find on The One Stop

Shop (TOSS) website. Rather than searching through the Friday Flash or printed materials, TOSS is where you should go first for program administration information.

- To find TOSS go to the WSU Thurston County Extension website:  
<https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/>
- Once you are on this website, you can get to the TOSS site by clicking on either the MG or the MRC program heading boxes.
- You can access TOSS if:
  - You have completed the 2021 volunteer recommitment process, and
  - You are active as a trainee, intern, certified volunteer, or an emeritus volunteer.
- The TOSS webpage is password protected because it includes a roster of active volunteers with personal contact information (email addresses, phone numbers, and mailing addresses). This sort of information is for program member use only. We do not want this information distributed to the public. You can find the TOSS password and log in instructions in the Friday Flash. Please do not share the password.
- There are some simple directions at the top of first page explaining how to use the search function to find the information you need. To make things easier to find, TOSS is organized in four sections:
  - Resources for both MG's and MRC's,
  - Resources for MG's,
  - Resources for MRC's, and
  - Resources for MGFTC members.
- At this time there are some headings for documents and information sources that have not been completed. If you click on these document headings, the page will not open if that information is not yet available. Be patient, in time this site will have completed documents.
- Much of the general information that always appeared in the Friday Flash has been moved to TOSS, including:
  - 2021 Master Calendar of meetings, volunteer check-ins, and other events.
  - How to contact Cori, Jenni, or the WSU Extension Office.
  - How to log in to CERVIS and sign up for volunteer work parties.
  - The 2021 MG and MRC volunteer service hour requirements
  - Safety and accident/incident report forms and directions
  - Links to program internal volunteer pages and public Facebook pages
- You should log into the TOSS website soon and explore it. Once you become familiar with it, you will be able to quickly get to the information you are looking for. Remember, this will be The One Stop Shop for finding what you will not be able to get anywhere else.

## **THE ANNUAL PLANT SALE.**

Last year we did not have a plant sale, but this year the Plant Sale Committee has come up with a plan to make sweet lemonade from the sour lemons COVID-19 has thrown our way.

- We are offering plant sale shopping opportunities to MG's, MRC's, and Foundation members as well as your family members, friends, and neighbors.
- All shopping will be by appointment only on Wednesdays (right now) and Saturdays (starting April 24<sup>th</sup>). We are not advertising the sale at this time. However, you can tell others about the sale and how to make a reservation. Please ask them to keep the appointment making password confidential (see below).
- To get a shopping appointment go to the MGFTC website: <https://www.mgftc.org/personal-shopping-appointments/> . When prompted enter the password **plantsale** .
- And to make things even better, the Committee is planning a spring Plant-Palooza May 5-8 and another September 1-4. On these dates there will be extended shopping hours, but you will still have to make an appointment.
- The purpose of appointments is to limit the number of shoppers we will have at any one time at the plant sale location. Each appointment is for a one hour period, plenty of time to browse and make your purchase choices. Persons without appointments will not be admitted to the sale area.
- There are lots of good plants to choose from. So, get on the web and make your appointment(s) today.

## **COVID GUIDELINES.**

It seems like the COVID-19 viruses have dominated our lives over the past year. How we visit with our friends and family, how we work, and our recreation activities have all changed. The Master Gardener and Master Recycler Composter programs are no exception. We have to comply with Governor orders, state Health Department guidelines, local regulations, and Washington State University expectations that program activities will be conducted in a planned, detailed, and safe manner. The procedures that are used to keep us safe, such as requirements for masks, gloves, the number of persons that may be present at a worksite, and separation distances between workers, will vary as the local number of virus cases either increase or decrease. While work events are planned and scheduled to stretch through June, the number of persons allowed to work at a demonstration garden at a specific time may be altered as conditions change. We have to patient and trust that these procedures will help all of us to stay healthy and virus free.

With fast changing events, such as new waves of infections caused by virus variants, and rapid changes in hospitalizations in Thurston County, it may be difficult to know how program work events are affected. The following resources will help you understand what the current requirements are for on-site participation in MG and MRC program activities.

- Using the internet, go to the Thurston County Master Gardener website: <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/>

- Scroll down the page to find “Information for Current MG & MRC Volunteers. Then click on the link to TOSS. Log in to TOSS. Under the heading “Volunteering During COVID-19” you will find the up-to-date policies and procedures for work party participation.
- MG Roy Emory is working on a webpage to add to the MG Foundation of Thurston County website that will have details on current guidelines. This will be available soon.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- **Cancelled: The Fred Meyer Planting Day**, normally held in spring, is cancelled this year due to COVID-19. Hopefully, Planting Day will return in 2022.
- **Donate a Plant**. The Plant Sale Nursery at Dirt Works by Yauger Park is accepting plant donations. As you clean out your flower beds or divide overgrown plants, this will be a good place to give those “unwanted extras” a new start. Please drop off the plants at the nursery gate on Wednesdays between 9 AM and 1 PM. Someone will meet you at the gate to take your donation. If you have any questions, contact Marcia Justis at [justisholman@gmail.com](mailto:justisholman@gmail.com).
- **Got Pots?** The Plant Sale Nursery at Dirt Works needs one and a half gallon and two gallon straight-sided, round pots. If you have some of these pots that you no longer need, please drop them off any time at the Plant Sale Nursery gate.
- **MG and MRC Zoom Check-Ins**. There are bi-weekly check-in meetings Thursday evenings at 6:30 and Friday mornings at 11:00. MRC Café meetings are held via zoom, as well. Keep up with new developments and earn continuing education credits. Check the Friday Flash for zoom meeting dates and links.
- **How About a Little Web-ucation**. Speaking of education, check out the MGFTC website. Under “Resources” click on “Web-ucation.” A long list of “links to help you learn” pops up. These lead you to described websites where you can pick up new information or re-check your knowledge of various gardening and recycling/composting topics.
- **MG and MRC Question & Answer Clinic**. Master Gardeners, do you miss helping the gardening public solve their vegetable garden, lawn, and flower bed mysteries? Well, the Q & A Clinic is now conducted over the internet. People send in their questions and perhaps a picture or two, and we provide the best answers we can to help them out. Each Tuesday afternoon at 1:00, Cori holds a zoom meeting to coordinate this effort. Click on this link to register for the meeting:  
[https://zoom.us/meeting/tJItcOctrT8tH9dEArCs7swJRo-yQsWuDWyE/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCurjwjH9eRtxyERowAAo\\_CXe\\_ztilagvpZuT73IDMEcRTcBO0PK4NsJ830](https://zoom.us/join?pwd=QXRpNmlpcXA5NHVMZjBOek1kb1RKdz09) To join a meeting use this zoom meeting link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/96079534753?pwd=QXRpNmlpcXA5NHVMZjBOek1kb1RKdz09> .  
 The meeting ID is 960 7953 4753, and the passcode is 498974. To join the meeting by using a landline or cell phone, dial by your location +1 253 215 8782. The meeting ID is 960 7953 4753, and the passcode is 498974. To find your local phone number to dial into the meeting, go to <https://zoom.us/u/aj98PhgPv> . You will need to sign up for a free

Zoom account before being able to attend this meeting. If you do not know how to use Zoom, click on this link <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/> .

- **Looking for Educational Gardening Videos?** Look no further than the MGFTC website <https://www.mgftc.org> which provides links to the Washington Native Plant Society website, the Northwest Perennial Alliance Virtual Garden Tours, and the Clallam County Master Gardeners' "Green Thumb Education Series." Check these out; you will find something you will like.
- **Looking for a Few Good Tools?** Gardening tools and handicraft items are still available by online shopping at the MGFTC website. Click on the "Sales" header in the ribbon at the top of the webpage then "go to the shopping page." There are many items to choose from. Check them out and you will find something that will make your garden work easier.
- **We Need Your Garden Pictures for the 2022 Calendar.** The MGFTC Calendar Committee is calling out to our members for photos to be considered for the 2022 MGFTC Calendar. We are looking for garden vignettes (scenes) from your own garden, MG Demo Gardens, or from a public garden like the Capitol Campus.
  - The photos for each month need to be taken in a horizontal format, or landscape mode, to be considered for the Calendar.
  - Please refer to the information included in previous Friday Flash (2/12/2021) regarding how to determine the pixel size of your photo prior to submitting. Photos not meeting the size requirements (at least 3600 pixels on the longest side), unfortunately, will not be considered.
  - Also, new this year, when photos are submitted, include a completed photo release at the same time. This helps when readying the calendar for printing. Request a photo release from Barb Baker at [President@mgftc.org](mailto:President@mgftc.org).
  - Photos should be in the jpeg format. Please indicate if the photo is available in other formats (your camera's raw format, tiff, psd, or dng).
  - In the 2021 Calendar we included season-appropriate gardening tips and we want to do this again. If you have a tip or tips you want to share with the Calendar Committee, please send them to the email address in the next paragraph.
  - Deadline to submit photos is July 1, 2021. Submit photos and photo releases to Barb Baker at: [President@mgftc.org](mailto:President@mgftc.org).

## **AND FINALLY...**

It all started a little more than a year ago. Since last spring nearly ninety of our Thurston County neighbors, relatives, friends, or acquaintances have fallen victim to COVID-19. We are all tired of the endless masking and distancing and zooming our meetings. But we can see ahead of us in the distance the sunlit edge of the tangled forest. We still have a few months of wading through thick underbrush and brambles, double masked, keeping our distance from one another, getting our shots, and most importantly, keeping faith that by following simple rules despite our pandemic fatigue, we will all get to the open, sunny field of normal life we all long for. Until then, please stay healthy, and take care of yourselves, your families, and your friends.