



Vol. 2, Issue 2: April-June, 2021

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.

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 24th). 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/>
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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 handcraft 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.
 - 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.

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.