

# Friday Fresh

Delivering the freshest news and updates for Mason County WSU Master Gardeners

## Class of 2018 is a go!

by Jeannine Polaski, MG Program Coordinator, [jeannine.polaski@wsu.edu](mailto:jeannine.polaski@wsu.edu)

Phewwww! We have reached our minimum number of trainees needed so training new Master Gardeners will begin on September 22! We had a pretty good turnout at our orientation session on Wednesday, and we now have applications from nine trainees (and a few more who have expressed interest). Thanks to the Master Gardeners who attended and made sure that I covered everything. We have another orientation session scheduled for next Tuesday beginning at 5:30 in the Library conference room.

There is still plenty of room for more trainees so keep spreading the news! The more the merrier. Also, I have heard from a few of you regarding being a mentor—let's hear from more of you. It does not require a lot of time and is a great way to make our new trainees feel like a part of the group!

At the next foundation meeting, I will have a sign up for Oysterfest. It is in the same location as last year and will run on Saturday from 10:00 to 6:00 and on Sunday from 10:00 to 5:00. Be thinking of what timeframe you want to sign up for! Remember, you will get a free ticket in to Oysterfest for volunteering.

Have a safe and fun Labor Day weekend! Lucky me, I get to spend it with my family and they are going to do all of the labor!

## A friendly reminder...

by Dorothy Skans

Automatic certification in the WSU Extension MG program does not carry forward from year to year. Local program coordinators must prepare and send reapplication or update forms to veterans every year before volunteer activities begin. Minimum requirements for recertification are

- ✓ Volunteering 25 hours of approved community service
- ✓ Acquiring 10 hours of continuing education credits
- ✓ Documenting volunteer hours each month

So, your 2017 volunteer hours **MUST** be recorded before the end of the year to retain your MG certification for 2018. Click on the link in the box below to record your hours:

2017 MG volunteer hours to date:  
2,945 hours from 34 volunteers

<http://ext.wsu.edu/volunteers/logon.aspx>

## September 1, 2017

- Sep 2** ----- Farmer's Market Clinic—Kitty Lundeen-Ness (am); **VOLUNTEER NEEDED (VN)** (pm)
- Sep 4** ----- Extension Office closed for Labor Day
- Sep 5** ----- Master Gardener Clinic, 12 to 3 pm, Extension Office—**VN** (note this is a Tuesday)
- Sep 5** ----- MG Trainee Orientation Meeting, 5:30 pm, Shelton Timberland Library
- Sep 7** ----- Plant Sale Committee Meeting, 1 to 3 pm, Memorial Hall
- Sep 9** ----- Farmer's Market Clinic—Bonnie Day (am); Beatrix Blackerby (pm)
- Sep 9** ----- Catalyst Community Gardeners Workshop, 10 am to noon @ Catalyst—Jack Smith, Food Preservation
- Sep 11** ----- Master Gardener Clinic, 12 to 3 pm, Extension Office—**VN**
- Sep 11** ----- MGFMC Foundation Meeting, 10:15 am, Shelton Timberland Library—Guest speaker: Karla Lortz on *Heaths and Heathers*
- Sep 11** ----- Education Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm, WSU Extension Office
- Sep 14** ----- Publicity Committee Meeting, 9:30 am, WSU Extension Office
- Sep 16** ----- Farmer's Market Clinic—**VN** (am); **VN** (pm)
- Sep 18** ----- Master Gardener Clinic, 12 to 3 pm, Extension Office—Diana Sparby
- Sep 22** ----- First MG Training Session, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, Public Works
- Sep 23** ----- Farmer's Market Clinic—**VN** (am); **VN** (pm)
- Sep 25** ----- Master Gardener Clinic, 12 to 3 pm, Extension Office—**VN**
- Sep 30** ----- Farmer's Market Clinic—**VN** (am); **VN** (pm)

[www.facebook.com/masoncountymastergardeners/](http://www.facebook.com/masoncountymastergardeners/)

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Mason County

**Master Gardener  
Program**

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## Catalyst harvest day news

by Bonnie Day-Orr

Hot, dry weather like this makes us very glad we put in the drip water system a few years back. The vegetables in the garden are doing very well, thanks to all the roots getting deeply watered. We had a good harvest today with 130 pounds of beans, cucumbers, summer squash, kale, carrots, and a hand full of radishes going to the food bank. Last week Sybil Jones planted some spinach and this week it's up and growing. Our new lettuce and carrots are doing well, and I think we will be harvesting the turnips that we planted at the first of August next week. After we finished harvesting on Tuesday, we spent some time covering paths with cardboard and wheeling chips. Nancy Dillon and Sherry Clemmens worked on the grand entry into the Learning Garden. It was decided to frame up some fencing and put it on the sides. The plan is to grow hops up and over the trellis. After a bit of discussion, we made a decision on the yellow paint for the new shed. By this afternoon the paint has already been purchased and all we need is a cool day to do some painting. Collin Orr continues to work on the greenhouse. In the past few days, he dug 18-inch deep holes and mixed cement to set the posts that attach the greenhouse foundation. The front door went on today and Collin built a new fence gate that will open directly in front of the greenhouse door making it more convenient to haul soil and greenhouse stuff. It was a lovely morning and the garden is beautiful. Remember that we are at the garden every Tuesday at 9 am, and it would be great if those of you who haven't been up to the garden yet come by for a visit.

## Reminder: 2018 Plant Sale meetings begin

by 2017 Plant Sale Facilitator John Skans

September is here, can you believe it? September through May are the planning months for our Plant Sale. Just as in our gardens, the early planning work we do produces better fruits (and vegetables) in the spring.

### 2018 Plant Sale "first" meeting

Thursday, September 7, 1 to 3 pm, Memorial Hall

## Extras, anyone?

by Lou Schmidt, 360.427.4258

Does anyone have extra Interlaken grapes? They make fantastic raisins, and my crop is small this year. I also need a couple of zucchini for relish. Let me know! And name your price.



From Sharon Bryant: The yellow globe is a cucumber. So delicious! It did grow on a vine, I just put it in the center of my lettuce— couldn't help myself. You slice them and they are like cucumber cookies!

photos from Catalyst: Bonnie Day



Nancy Dillon and Sherry Clemmens working on the trellis; Kitty Lundeen-Ness raking chips on the garden paths; one of our pumpkins for the Pumpkin Sale in October.

2017 Workshops for Catalyst Community Gardeners

Saturday, September 9, 10 am to noon

Jack Smith  
on Food Preservation

From Norma Kirmse-Borden: Goldenrod Bee in my garden



## Education: Growing potatoes in a container

by Ciscoe Morris, <http://www.ciscoe.com/garden/topics/potatoes.html>

Get a clean garbage can or similar container. Plastic works great because it won't rust out. Drainage is absolutely necessary. Drill several 1/2 inch holes in the bottom. It also helps to drill some holes in the side about half-inch up from the bottom of the container.

Fill the container with about 6 inches of good potting soil. Mix in about a handful of osmocote 14-14-14 fertilizer. Osmocote is a slow release fertilizer that will stay active for approximately 2-1/2 months. ...

[Click the link above for the remainder of this article.] [Speaking of Ciscoe Morris, catch this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7QW1yt1bq8> — he's gone national.]

## Facebook for MCMGs



Hearing from individual people in the group is a great way to reach out to the community. You can share your experience by reviewing our group on FACEBOOK. Right now we are reaching 559 people when we share information. Help us reach out to the community by sharing your thoughts!

Go to [www.facebook.com/masoncountymastergardeners/](http://www.facebook.com/masoncountymastergardeners/). Look under the big orange flower on the left side. Click "Reviews" and give us a review—don't forget the stars!

Here's a great review from 2015: *This is such a wonderful experience. Everyone is so helpful and of good spirit. I recommend everyone join in. Wow!! To see things grow and to learn about how we impact our environment is a powerful thing. Thanks 😊*

## Photos from Langley, Whidbey Island



The entire town is lined with baskets and plantings and color!



photos: Christy Rowe



## What's coming?

**Sep 20-23** - WSU Master Gardener Advanced-Education Conference, Yakima Convention Center, <http://canyoudigit-2017.org/> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fH3TEX8a88o>

**Oct 7** ----- Master Gardeners of San Juan County Annual Gardening Workshop, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Friday Harbor Middle School, San Juan Island, <http://www.mgfsjc.org/gardenworkshop.html> (see August 18 *Friday Fresh*)

**Oct 12** ----- SW Washington MG District Meeting, 10 am to 1 pm, Lewis County Administration Building, downstairs meeting room



### MCMG September Garden Tour

Dave and Karen Shephard's lake-side rose garden

Sunday  
September 10  
1 pm

Location details will be provided via MasonMG Cougar email.

*Friday Fresh* is a weekly publication of the Master Gardeners Foundation of Mason County. It is currently produced by John and Dorothy Skans. Provide articles, event dates, questions, and comments to [jskans@gmail.com](mailto:jskans@gmail.com) by 8 am each Thursday.

You can access archived *Friday Fresh* issues at <http://extension.wsu.edu/mason/mastergardener/mastergardener/8>

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