EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We use knowledge to empower healthy and resilient communities, but what if we could do more?

Learn how your gift will support a greener, healthier Washington when you give to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Endowed Chair Fund. [https://bit.ly/MGendowment](https://bit.ly/MGendowment)

Learn more about the $15,000 matching gift by Deserah Smeltzer and her husband, David Kingsbury, on the back of this flyer.

Dear WSU Master Gardener Program Coordinators,

To help establish the first-ever, fully dedicated Master Gardener Program endowed faculty chair, Skagit County WSU Extension Master Gardener Deborah A. Smeltzer and her husband, David T. Kingsbury, PhD, are providing a $15,000 challenge match between now and September 25, 2023. They will match dollar for dollar up to $15,000 any funds contributed to the campaign from cash donations or pledges during this period. Deborah and David together believe that supporting the Master Gardener Program endowed faculty chair will help ensure the future development of quality curriculum and tools in science-based horticulture and environmental stewardship to support volunteer outreach.

Deborah A. Smeltzer became a master gardener in 2012 and has dedicated her time and energy to supporting the MG Program both in Skagit County and statewide through training master gardener interns and educating home gardeners. She provides leadership in outreach programs, as a member and officer of the Skagit County Master Gardener Foundation board, and as a member of the 50th EMG Anniversary Volunteer Committee. Deborah believes in giving back to her community and applying her expertise and management skills honed during more than 30 years as a corporate executive in the biotechnology industry to strengthen our master gardener program.

David T. Kingsbury, PhD, is a Washingtonian whose science and business career spanned the U.S. and Europe. Dedicated to education in many forms, David is a regular supporting volunteer to the Skagit County Master Gardener Program as well as being an avid home gardener.

As an aside, I thought you might like to hear a little more about Deborah and her commitment to our program. She was 2012 Skagit MG Intern of the Year and 2014 Skagit MG of the Year; just 6 years after joining the program, she earned her Presidential Lifetime Service Award of 4,000 hours in 2018; she was 2020 Washington MG of the Year; and she’s earned her 500+ Hours per Year Service Awards — every year 2013–2022.

Thank you, Deborah and David, for your generosity. The time and talents you share and the financial contributions you’ve already made, coupled with this matching gift is a true testament to your commitment research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education to empower and sustain diverse communities.