

March 18, 2020

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

With restrictions in place and following common sense in the face of emergency, we will not be able to meet as usual during this extremely important time of the Master Gardeners' year. Education can continue online but we certainly will miss the social aspect of our group. We will miss the community based programs that we facilitate and support. The future looks uncertain. What do we do? We roll up our sleeves and move forward to meet the challenge, of course.

Saturday's meeting at the green house offered some suggestions but nothing official from foundation yet. Hopefully all of you read the memo John Strong sent out, with the minutes of Saturday's meeting, a bit of which is incorporated here

EDUCATION: Although it may initially leave out certain individuals who do not use computers, we can continue our education via electronic media. That's the easy part. John is investigating how we can use Zoom to video the teachings and post them both in real time and to access anytime via the website. There is no class this week. The Foundation Board (only) will meet online Wednesday to solidify how we will continue the program remotely. John is will be sending out a memo this week regarding Zoom. Anyon who is technically gifted and already know this program, or willing to learn it, and be on-call phone support for others, is invited to contact John and help him help us with this transition.

TEAMS: But what about the rest of the program? Since all public and private schools in Washington state are closed **for six weeks**, what happens to Youth Team, Clinic, and so forth? These will have to be decided on individual basis. Many changes in scheduling ahead, so read your email.

PLANT SALE; And, of course, the biggie: what about the greenhouse and the plant sale? Again, see the email where there are suggestions of how to legally and logistically accomplish mandates, suggestions on how to accomplish distancing while working, postponement or doing it remotely and other suggestions. We have a big financial investment in plants, materials, etc., and we have an even greater investment of human energy. So, we are ALL investors in this venture. How do we succeed in the face of adversity? Again, please read the minutes of the meeting and send suggestions to [Melody](#).

THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST

TUESDAY Greenhouse 8-11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY 8:00 Demo Garden

12:15-1:15

1:30-

2:30

CANCELLED

CHECK IN: Put an X by your name, pick up any handouts on that table

CHECK OUT: What is on the other tables.

7:00 Symposium

RECORD: Your time at

<https://volunteers.cahnrs.wsu.edu/logon.aspx>

FRIDAY 9:00-11:00 Art Team work day

Greenhouse, Demo Garden and Art Team are still on schedule



The demo garden is waking up! A few of us discovered this last week when we raked leaves away from buried spring bulbs that needed sun badly. We were a very tiny but mighty crew who raked one more section of the garden and pruned the roses and admired this lovely Hellebore

The

Greenhouse Effect

We need Weekly Soil-(Dirt) and sometimes bi-weekly soil (extra GH days) to plant seeds and seedlings and to water.

The veggie team now has about 4,000 peppers growing - sweet and hot! The eggplant seeds are starting to wake up and getting ready to plant out in a couple of weeks.

Next Tuesday we are seeding the tomatoes, about 40 flats. A week later come the cherry tomatoes. Beginning of April we start planting out first regular tomatoes and then the cherry ones. In April we also will seed directly into pots, first melons, gourds, pumpkins and cucumbers. Last, we plant the zucchini and the squash.

We will share with you all the different vegetables we grow, before the plant sale.

I am already looking around in the greenhouse for what I would like to buy!

A little rain, a little snow and then we hope for the sun.

I wonder if the plants know about daylight savings!

We appreciate all your help and we will get it all done.

Beatrice Reiss

HERB TEAM SPLITTING UP

We like each other, we really do! We love the energy of working like a well-oiled machine and getting it all done!! And, oh! The conversations we share.

But we've looked at our risks and we are a risky group! Knowing we can't congregate and converse, we have decided to hit the greenhouse on different days. For now Diana and Carolyn will be there Friday, Judith and Sally on Mondays. Others can take their pick

Herb Team memos to go out on Mondays with instructions. If you want on the list, let us know. Let's see what it takes to do this remotely.

Judith McDonald, Carolyn Heffron



Friday Art Team

I love hanging out with all the planners, painters and planters every Friday morning at the greenhouse. So many talented people creating wonderful garden art pieces....and sometimes they bake and share with us. Come join the fun.

diana

Come out to the Garden!

We will be in the demo garden at our regular day and time this week, Wednesday starting at eight. We are working in an outside setting and not in close proximity to one another so come and join us. *We will not be taking a break at our favorite spot or sharing any foods brought from our homes.*

Diana Pieti

WSU - Public Affairs/Information

The follow points make up the main message WSU should be driving home to residents, the public, and our Master Gardeners.

- **Stay home when sick** and limit close contact with others in your household who are not sick.
- **Call ahead** and do not go to the emergency room unless seriously ill. Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those with the most critical needs. If you have symptoms like cough, fever, or other respiratory problems, contact your regular doctor first.
- **Even if you are not ill, avoid visiting hospitals, long term care facilities or nursing homes** to the extent possible. If you do need to visit one of these facilities limit your time there and keep 6 feet away from patients.
- **Stay away from people who are ill**, especially if you are 60 and older or have underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, or a weakened immune system.
- **Practice excellent personal hygiene** habits, including hand washing with soap and warm water (with 20 second vigorous scrub), coughing into tissue or elbow, avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Limit your interactions and practice social distancing.** Work with your family, workplace, school and the rest of the community to limit your activities in the upcoming weeks.
- **Stay informed.** Information is changing frequently but only depend on scientific information from reliable sources (CDC, WHO, Mayo clinic, edu sights, etc) not the media 'hype'.

The Bumble of Bees

Our Backyard Bumbles: An Introduction
to Washington's Bumblebees by David
Jennings @ Arboretum

HAS BEEN CANCELLED

But here are a few words from his bio you might enjoy:

“...Bumblebees are some of our most endearing native pollinators. With their furry bodies (and ability to thermoregulate) they are well-adapted to survive in colder and temperate ecosystems, such as those in Washington State. Bumblebees are the only bees native to North America that are truly social – the more familiar European honey bee is not a native species. Bumblebees have a complex social life and their means of communicating within colonies are not fully understood, despite many decades of research. Unlike the European honey bee, bumblebees have an annual lifecycle and only the queen bee survives the harsh winter, subsisting overwinter on food reserves she consumed prior to hibernation.

There are many factors that impact bumblebee populations. While some species have stable populations, others are in decline. As generalist foragers, they do not depend on any one plant species; however, some plants do rely on bumblebees to achieve pollination. Bumblebees are more efficient than honey bees in pollination of some human food crops, including tomatoes and cranberries. Thus, the loss of bumblebees has far ranging impacts due to their role as pollinators. “

I still like to think about the bumblebees bumbling about in Icelandic greenhouses.:-) Ed.

CLODS

SHARON FISHER



It took little time in our Master Gardener network to learn of the passing of member, Sharon Fisher. I have good memories of Sharon from when she first joined us, worked for the Highland School District and sometimes came straight from her job to our activities. She was in charge of our column in the newspaper and worked hundreds and hundreds of hours in our clinic. But my best memory of her is her sweetness. She was always nice and had a smile on her face.....and that is the way I will remember her. Our hearts are heavy for her partner and fellow MG member Darrel Monroe as well as her children. I

Diana Pieti

The Clod Personals

Are you in the senior, senior at-risk or some other at home status? How are you doing? Do you have questions or comments about the changes going on? Another at-risk senior would like to hear from you and share experiences.

[Judith McDonald](#)
379-3904

The [Weekly Dirt](#) welcomes submissions from all Master Gardeners. What is your interest, direction, specialty? I'd love to hear from you and it doesn't have to be *perfect*, I'm here to help! This is a great opportunity to improve your communication skills. Plus! Time spent can be added to your hours under either CE or Program Support. No, it's not always easy or fun meeting deadlines, but it *is* satisfying, knowing you are getting better at sharing your knowledge and skills with the community.

Enjoying the Harvest



We had fresh carrots all winter and finally harvested the last 28 pounds before the next cold snap. Who knew there were so many left under all that mulch? Photo: 21 pints of Yellowstone and Chantenay, pureed carrot and veggie broth, and Black Nebula.

Phyllis Pugnetti

Correction: Last week's front page listed the YouthTeam meeting on Friday. It was the Friday of the previous week. My apologies if anyone showed up on the wrong day. *editor*



Yakima Master Gardeners



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Yakima County Master Gardeners

March 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

15	16	17 8:00 Greenhouse	18 8:00 Demo Garden 10:30 Foundation = Board Only	19	20 9:00 Art Team GH	21
22	23	24 8:00 Greenhouse	25 8:00 Demo Garden	26	27 9:00 Art Team GH	28
29	30	31 8:00 Greenhouse	1 8:00 Demo Garden	2	3 9:00 Art Team GH	4
5	6	7 8:00 Greenhouse	8 8:00 Demo Garden	9	10 9:00 Art Team GH	11

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