

Scoop o' Dirt

Yakima County Master Gardener News

August 2022

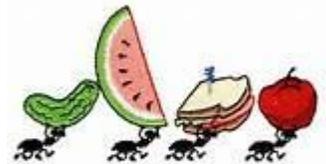
One of the quintessential experiences of summer is a picnic and Yakima Master Gardeners really do know how to picnic with a capital P.

I can hear the tiny, clapping hands of ants everywhere, in anticipation of August 10, when we gather after our monthly Foundation meeting to dine al fresco at the Red Barn.

We mostly know the drill by now – Foundation will provide a protein, possibly chicken or ribs this year, and everyone else brings sides to fill out the menu. Here are suggested categories. If you want to switch up your category, consider swapping with another person.

If you have something you would like to donate towards door prizes, we won't turn you down! Let Patty Ferguson know (pattyferg@aol.com). While you are at it, let her know if you are able to attend and what you might be bringing. Foundation will provide plates, napkins, plastic table service, and some serving utensils.

If your last name begins with...	Please bring ...
A through E	Main Dish
F through J	Side Dish
K through O	Salad
P through T	Dessert
U through Z	Beverage, chips, breads, relishes, condiments, etc.



A Call for Pots!!

It needs to be reminded that we need pots returned. Price has gone way up and we know our members have a lot because they bought a lot. Watch for John's weekly activity post for whether or not the greenhouse is open for the heirloom garden. Or communicate with Darrell. There is a goal of 1000 pots being returned to the greenhouse. Please remove labels and wash them out.

Reminder!

Foundation Meeting

Wednesday, August 10th at 10:30 at the Red Barn

Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie Hunziker at jbhunziker@gmail.com. Texting photos and brief descriptions are fine, as well. (530)209-4329. Note: for August and September newsletters, please include co-editor Debra Kroon in submissions: debrakroon@gmail.com/(509)834-9348.



A big Welcome to our new Program Coordinator. **Patty Ratzlaff** started with the Yakima-Kittitas programs on July 18th. In case you missed the email that was sent to all our members announcing Patty, we are sharing her introduction here. Welcome aboard Patty!



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



July 19, 2022

Dear WSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers,

Please welcome Patty Ratzlaff as the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator in Yakima and Kittitas Counties. Patty comes to WSU Extension with nearly 20 years of experience working with volunteers, and planning events and activities as a Professional Activities Coordinator. She's developed and implemented volunteer programs from the ground up. She enjoys working with others and being organized.

Patty has lived all of her adult life in the Pacific Northwest. She and her husband are just finishing their new home and they look forward to putting in a vegetable garden next spring. Her goal is to teach her grandchildren how to grow vegetables and flowers. She has long admired the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program and is especially looking forward to meeting all of you.



Patty will be supporting the WSU Extension Master Gardener Programs in Yakima and Kittitas Counties as a full-time employee. She will spend the first couple of weeks orienting with WSU, WSU Extension and the two Counties. Working with Jennifer Marquis and Tip Hudson, Patty will learn about our Land Grant heritage, the purpose of Extension and the mission of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. Jennifer will support and coach Patty through the onboarding process from a state level perspective and will recruit volunteers from the respective counties to help Patty learn what it means to be a WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator in Yakima and Kittitas Counties.

Patty's first day was July 18, 2022. Her email address is patty.ratzlaff@wsu.edu. Please take a second to send her a quick note of welcome. I know she would appreciate hearing from you. As she becomes settled, she will be in touch with all of you as well.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Marquis

Are YOU Going??

We are just over 12 weeks out from the 2022 Advanced Education Conference as I write this article. Coordinating a statewide conference takes a lot of work and many minds to get it done. From the venue to the instructors, from the food to the SWAG BAGS, from the Marketplace to the Raffle, there are myriad details to be worked through. Commitments made, contracts signed, products purchased, menus perused, the list goes on and on. There is no way I could face this task without the help of a great Planning Team-they truly are the folks that are making it happen.

We've got about 75 spots left and registration will be full. There are some great tours scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday prior to the opening of the event. Our keynote speaker will be Riz Reyes, a horticulturist based out of Seattle and currently the assistant director of Heronswood Garden in Kingston, WA. In addition to Mr. Reyes, we are offering over 30 interesting instructors for you to choose from (although some classes are already at capacity, most remain open for more folks to choose).

The beginning of August you should receive information about volunteer opportunities at the Conference-if you're planning to attend, I ask you to consider giving an hour or two in some fashion. There will also be a local opportunity to help. At the end of August there will be a work party to assemble the SWAG BAGS. Please reach out if you'd like to be a part of it. We could use the help!

If you haven't already, please consider registering for this event. You won't be sorry. MGLearns.org will get you to the registration site featuring detailed information about the schedule, the instructors, the tours, and much more.

Thanks much, **Melody Westmoreland**, State Conference Chair



WORK PARTY!

On Tuesday, August 30th, there will be a work party at the Red Barn to assemble the SWAG bags for the Conference. We will start at 10:30. Depending on how many show up we can knock this out in an hour or so. I'm looking for some folks to help with this project. Please contact me if interested, all help will be appreciated. Melody Westmoreland westmoreland9108@yahoo.com

Master Gardener Mission Statement:

"Engaging university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain communities with relevant, unbiased, researched-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education."

International Master
Gardener Conference



June 18 – 22, 2023
Overland Park, Kansas

Demonstration Garden

Touring some Public Gardens This Summer?

By Diana Pieti

We hope you will begin with the three that our Master Gardeners take care of. We are so proud of all of them; each serving such a different purpose. Our very newest garden (tentatively named West Valley Food Garden) was begun last year around a table of veggie gardeners was put to the soil this spring and what a testament of their planning. They have harvested much, have so much more growing and all this is heading to a small food bank in the upper valley. We have learned to not disturb the soil but they had to break ground on this plot and that has revealed so many weed seeds. They have applied so much mulch to the pathways and the growing beds and it is slowly making a big difference. In the meantime there is weekly work controlling those weeds and many of our members have been doing just that. It is a very rewarding place to put in some time. What a difference all this is making in some area lives. John and Camille lead this wonderful garden.

Our heirloom garden was begun in 2014 and was led by member Phyllis Pugnetti. Larray Prather came and moved a lot of bark off this compacted area, and then rototilled for us. The mulch arrived in the back of Phyllis's truck and the beginning of improving the soil was started. Today there is proof of her leadership and the soil is rich and plants grow like giants. This garden only grows heirloom plants and very early on

there was a seed library established by Phyllis where free seeds are provided to members, the public and our vegetable team in the greenhouse. She has taught us how to properly save seeds with the intent that we will grow and bring those seeds back to the library as we would a book. Those of us who volunteered at this garden learned so much from Phyllis about open pollinated seeds, rare seeds and food scarcity. Go visit there.

And lastly and the oldest is our Demonstration Garden which began in 2005. We had grown so big as a group and needed a bigger place to hold our classes. We signed an agreement with Yakima County that said we would help beautify the park in exchange for free rent for our weekly classes, and other events. We now have that same agreement with Union Gap. It is a very good arrangement, but it has become far more with summer classes being held there, a lovely spot for photography and a provider of food and shelter for wildlife. It is ever changing, a very large area to maintain with so many plantings but also something of interest weekly.

There are so many reasons to see these gardens during the growing season, and one of the best is that we work with each other and catch up with what is going on in their gardens and lives. All these gardens always need help. Please check the calendar in this newsletter and grab some tools and go help.

2022 Demonstration Garden Classes

Date	Presenter	Topic
Aug 13	Claudia Steen	Growing & Care of Houseplants
Aug 27	Diana Pieti	Bulbs You Really Want, But Didn't Know You Did
Sept 10	Carol Barany	Flowers for a Cutting Garden
Sept 24	Sarah Judd	Planning Now for Starting Seeds
Oct 1	Jeff Kozma	Bird Seed Ornaments and Inviting Birds to Your Garden

Demonstration Garden cont.

Demonstration Summer Garden Class News by Angela Galbreath

We had two great classes in July. On the 9th, Diana Pieti on Drying and Pressing Flowers and on the 23rd, Debra Kroon on Using Native Plants in Your Garden to Benefit Wildlife and Pollinators. Both classes were well attended by both the public and our members.

Diana brought tiny, pressed flowers for us to use on colorful tags or notecards inspiring us all to make the flowers and foliage in our gardens last beyond the growing season.

Debra helped us understand the importance of using native plants in our landscapes. She also provided a flat of *Agastache foeniculum*, anise hyssop, for some class members to take home. Debra started these plants in mug jugs late winter.

Next month Claudia Steen will talk to us about Growing and Caring for House Plants. Diana Pieti will be back to talk to us about Fall bulbs. Classes are the second and fourth Saturday's of the month. On the third Saturday of the month, classes are held at the Heirloom Garden.



Diana Pieti teaching about drying and pressing flowers.



Debra Kroon sharing about using native plants.

2022 Heirloom Garden Classes

Date	Presenter	Topic
Aug 20	Beatrice Reiss	Planning Vegetables for Winter Gardens
Sept 17	Sally Mayo	Garden Clean-up/Preparing Beds for Winter

Demonstration Garden cont.



Angela Galbreath captured some beautiful shots of rudbeckia and gaillardia in our demonstration garden.

Save The Date



Get your calendars out and check these dates for some Food, Fun, and Frolic. Our first fun time is just days away. Join your MG friends at our annual picnic which will be held **Wednesday, August 10th at Noon**. This takes place in the grassy area in front of the red barn. There will be some games and prizes and of course food. Foundation is providing the protein and we supply the rest.

Turn your calendars to the next month and remind yourself that on Wednesday, September 14th, right after foundation we will be celebrating Tomatofest. Bring some of the tomatoes you grew and our volunteers will prepare them for the tasting. In addition to that, this is a potluck and the requirement is that you bring something with tomatoes in it. That can be tomato sauce, or maybe even ketchup, but you get the idea. Foundation will furnish the dinner ware.

And then October. Come join us for the second annual We Grew Lunch. This was held in December last year but has been moved to Wednesday, October 5th at noon. Our team of veggie growers have begun early planning so we can get that lunch growing. This is a very fun event and we can't wait. More information about Tomatofest and We Grew Lunch as we get closer to those dates.

Want Ad: Do you grow peppermint? The herb team would love a clump of it to begin propagation soon in readiness for next spring. Please contact Diana or Diane....thanks from the Herb Team

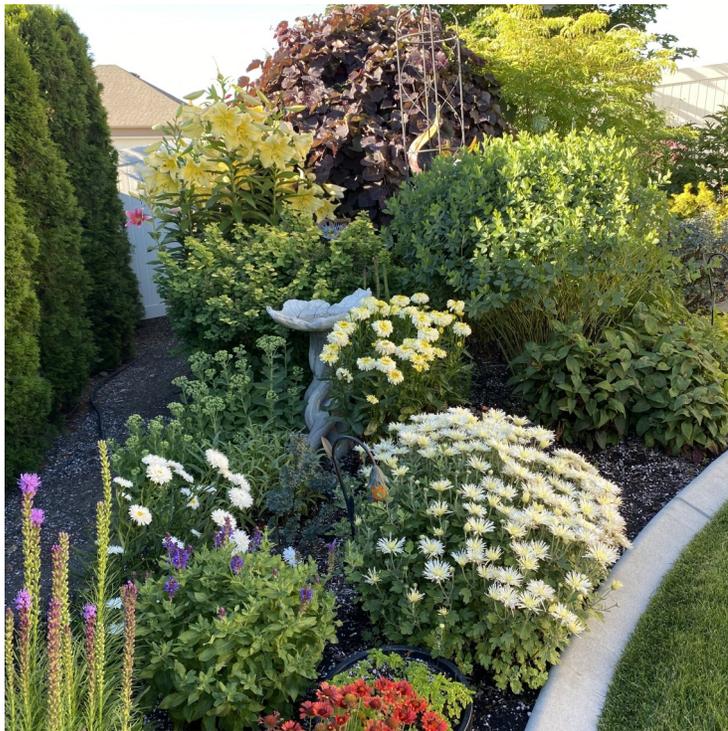


Ray Yates shares a garden photo from his and Debra's yard.

Master Gardeners at Home



Patty Dion shares garden photos of her blooming plants and new She Shed.



Sheila Gunderson's garden is quite lovely this time of year. Here she shares her Ruby Falls Red Bud and favorite lily, along with a trailing oregano, which start came from former Yakima MG Nancy Probst.



Remember to record your Give Pulse timely, which helps lighten the verifier's workload. Are you getting your CE and pay-back hours in? We are more than half-way through our Volunteer year. Veterans need to obtain 10 hours of CE each year and return at least 25 hours of volunteer time. Watch the weekly email update for opportunities.

Give Pulse Tip of the Month

By Julie Hunziker

Four items **MUST** be included in your impact entries:

- 1) **Event Category** (you can't miss this as it is the only box on one of the first pages)
- 2) Start and end dates **INCLUDING** the **start and ending time** (a "+Time" box in the upper right)
- 3) Under "Requested Information:"
 - a) You **MUST INCLUDE** the **Program Category**, which is found in the pull-down menu. It **MUST BE THE SAME** as the Event Category from item #1.
 - b) You **MUST INCLUDE** the **venue** of your impact in the "Where you did or What you did" box. Refer to handouts, previous newsletter articles, or your online or hard copy manual.
 1. If CE, include the TOPIC
- 4) A Reflection is optional, but is **GREATLY BENEFICIAL** to the verifier in knowing what you did: watering, weeding, transplanting, pruning, cleaning pots.



Foundation Board

President: Debra Kroon

Vice President: Dan Fortier

Treasurer: Gilbert Plascencia

Secretary: Pat Bombard

Past President: Melody Westmoreland

Members at Large:

Dick Larson and Mike Woods

Yakima/Kittitas Program Coordinator

Patty Ratzlaff

Program Coordinator(s) Pro-Tem:

Andrea Altmayer

Julie Hunziker

Ken Tolonen

Margaret Morris

Art Team

The Art Team will be gearing up to began work on projects for next year. We are looking for:

- Bowling balls
- Plastic gallon size bleach bottles
- Old leather lace up work boots, any condition
- Round glass light covers (old style/ball shape)
- Inflatable beach balls or inflatable exercise balls

Please bring to Demonstration Garden on Tuesday, to Foundation Meeting or leave at Green House. Feel free to contact Jenny Mansfield at ceeron19@comcast.net.



The Art Team has begun collecting donations of unwanted items for the Garden/Yard Sale this September. We are accepting garden-related items such as:

shovels, hoes, rakes, pitchforks; small hand garden tools such as shears, loppers, pruners; pots & planters, but not plastic ones used for Green House Plant Sale; landscape fabric, birdhouses, trellises, outdoor patio furniture or cushions in good/clean condition; wheelbarrows, compost bins. decorative pavers and other misc. yard type items. NO CHEMICALS.

You may bring to the Demonstration Garden on Tuesday 8:00 am to 11:00 am or contact me via email at ceeron19@comcast.net to set time to meet at Green House. Thank you. ~Jenny Mansfield~



WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension

CHAPTER 2: Washington State University Extension Master Gardener Program

Brief History, Volunteering, and Guiding Statements

The Master Gardener title was derived from Germany's "gartenmeisters," who were highly respected horticulturists in their communities. That is the legacy to which the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program aspires. The WSU Master Gardener Program started in 1973 when WSU Extension faculty in King and Pierce Counties saw an unmet need in the communities they were serving. To that end, faculty began training volunteers to become WSU Extension Master Gardeners. Little did they realize they would launch an entire "Master Gardener Movement" that would spread across the nation and overseas.

Volunteers: Why Do People Volunteer? How Do We Engage and Empower Volunteers?

As a program coordinator or as a WSU Master Gardener volunteer leader, it is important to understand why people volunteer in order to engage and empower volunteers to do mission- and vision-achieving work. Generally speaking, there are three levels of motivation for volunteerism.

1. Personal Drive: I volunteer because I'm going to get something I want out of it.
2. Relational Drive: I volunteer because my friend asked me to.
3. Belief Drive: I volunteer because I believe in the cause or the mission of the organization.

In the WSU Master Gardener Program, people volunteer because they want to learn more about home horticulture, they desire to participate with a group of people who have similar interests, and, ultimately, because they want to give back to their community on a topic they are passionate about.

Reasons for volunteering are directly linked to levels of commitment. For example, a volunteer just starting in the program is probably taking the training for self-serving reasons out of a personal drive to learn more about gardening. A certified volunteer who has been with the program for several years and routinely gives up personal time is doing so out of a belief in the mission or the cause. Volunteer commitment is a continuum and is relative to the reasons a person volunteers. Generally, a person volunteering for self-serving reasons is at a low level of commitment to the program; a person who volunteers for relational reasons is at a mid-level of commitment, and a person who volunteers because of a belief in the mission is at a high level of commitment.

Program coordinators and WSU Master Gardener Program volunteers have a responsibility to help people move through the continuum of commitment. To help them move through the continuum we must first meet their needs. We must maximize volunteer satisfaction, because satisfied volunteers are committed volunteers. When a person commits to an organization, they are engaged in the mission and go above and beyond the call of duty. Organizations with engaged and empowered volunteers are successful organizations.

That said, we must make expectations clear, trust volunteers to meet or exceed expectations, define goals, provide volunteers with tools they need to be successful, ensure all volunteers understand policies and procedures, communicate regularly, and, most importantly, give and receive feedback.

Volunteers begin our program with a passion to learn more; as program leaders, we need to channel that passion toward commitment by helping volunteers become competent and confident educators who empower and sustain diverse communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education.

**Our Guiding
Statements:
Slogan, Vision,
Mission, Values**

Our Slogan or Tagline

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program slogan is “Volunteer Community Educators—cultivating plants, people, and communities since 1973.”

Our Strategic Vision

Highly recognized, diverse, and fully supported, WSU Master Gardener volunteers are the go-to resource for communities seeking research-based, unbiased, innovative solutions for their ever-changing horticulture and environmental stewardship needs.

Our Mission

Engaging university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain diverse communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education.

Our Values

- We value personal and professional **research** and **discovery** because it encourages us to stay current about horticulture and environmental stewardship to meet the unique educational needs of our communities.
- We foster and benefit from an atmosphere of **diversity** and **inclusivity** because our differences inspire creative thinking and innovative solutions.
- We act with **integrity** because trust, truthfulness, and respect create a healthy and positive culture.
- We are committed to **stewardship** and **sustainability**, serving as ethical and responsible agents of our natural resources, human resources, and University resources.
- We **collaborate** because together we **empower** healthy and resilient communities.
- We are a **dynamic** and **responsive** program where **knowledge** inspires change.

Yard debris site now open in Grandview for Japanese beetle control

GRANDVIEW – Now that summer is in full swing, regular mowing and weeding is underway in the upkeep of lawns and yards. Normally people have that yard waste taken to the landfill. But, in the Grandview area, taking that waste to the landfill could also mean taking Japanese beetle for a ride.



That’s why the [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA) encourages area residents to dispose of certain green waste items from the infested area at the [Japanese Beetle Response Yard Debris Drop-Off](#) at 875 Bridgeview Rd., Grandview, WA 98930. There is no charge for disposal.

The site is open Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Alternate days will be determined and announced at [agr.wa.gov/beetles](#)

Residents can use our map to [find out if they are in the infested area](#).

Even though the proposed quarantine is not yet in place, WSDA has developed this site where residents can safely dispose of yard waste for free. To enter the gated area, residents must show ID and proof of residence in the infestation zone. Accepted documentation includes utility or water bills that match the ID or driver’s license.

“Until the proposed quarantine is adopted, residents who want to help us in our efforts can bring their yard waste to our disposal site,” Camilo Acosta, WSDA eradication coordinator, said. “This is the best way to ensure we keep the infestation from spreading.”

Japanese beetle eggs and larvae live in the soil below the surface. Preventing the spread requires not moving that yard waste or fill, and leaving soil on site. Providing a site inside the infestation zone allows residents to remove the debris from their property without spreading the infestation further.

Items accepted:

Brush, branches, and roots
Grass clippings
Weeds
Plants
Stumps if roots are attached
Sod

Leaves
Fruit and vegetable trimmings
Flowers
Shrubs
Topsoil containing vegetative material

Adult beetles can travel on waste or debris from yards, gardens, and other horticulture activities. If you landscape or garden, please leave your lawn clippings, leaves, weeds, and garden debris at the Japanese Beetle Response Yard Waste Drop-Off site.

The proposed quarantine will make this request an official rule, but has not yet been adopted. This will be updated after the hearings.



Photos from WA State Department of Ag. Left: Japanese Beetle on Rose. Right: Japanese Beetle on grape leaf.



August 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	2 Demonstration Garden 8-11	3 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	4 Heirloom Garden 8-11	5 WVFG 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	6
7 <i>Farmer's Market</i> 9-1 <i>Yakima Herald MG Article</i>	8 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	9 Demonstration Garden 8-11	10 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	11 Heirloom Garden 8-11	12 WVFG 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	13 Demonstration Garden Class 10 am
14 <i>Farmer's Market</i> 9-1 <i>Yakima Herald MG Article</i>	15 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	16 Demonstration Garden 8-11	17 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4 Foundation Mtg@Red Barn 1030-11:30 <i>Picnic in the Park!</i>	18 Heirloom Garden 8-11	19 WVFG 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	20 Heirloom Garden Class 10 am
21 <i>Farmer's Market</i> 9-1 <i>Yakima Herald MG Article</i>	22 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	23 Demonstration Garden 8-11	24 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	25 Heirloom Garden 8-11	26 WVFG 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	27 Demonstration Garden Class 10 am
28 <i>Farmer's Market</i> 9-1 (Youth Team) <i>Yakima Herald MG Article</i>	29 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	30 Demonstration Garden 8-11	31 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact: WSU Extension/2403 South 18th Street/Union Gap, WA 98903/509-574-1600. For accommodation please call at least two weeks prior to the event. WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. our local Extension office.</p> </div>		

Our Program Priorities

