

Scoop o' Dirt

Yakima County Master Gardener News

February 2023



Welcome to the 2023 Class of Yakima County Master Gardeners



Photo by Patty Ratzlaff

Back L to R: **Regina (Reggie) Sanderson**, **Don Flyckt**, **Jennifer Harris**, **Greg Uberuaga**, **Mike Hendricks**, **Carrie Chicken**, **Joanne (Jo) Davis**, **Anna Swedin**
 Front L to R: **Julia Wood (2 year)**, **Lea Draven**, **Jennifer Newport**
 Not Pictured: **Ritva Kinzel (2 year)**, **Chylla Meacham (3 year)**

2023 February Winter Classes

Date	Presenter	Topic
2/1	James Graff, Soiltest (Moses Lake) Debra Kroon, YCMG	Soils and Plant Nutrition Putting Pollinators First
2/8	Dale Whaley, WSU Douglas County	Entomology
2/15	Cassandra Bates, WSU Plant Diagnostician Jeff Kozma, Wildlife Biologist/Yakama Nation	Plant Pathology and Diagnosis Attracting Pollinators: Birds & Insects
2/22	Patty Ratzlaff	Awards Banquet
3/1	Katrina Strathmann, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancing Group Marc Eyler, Kittitas Co Noxious Weed Board	Riparian Habitat & Restoration Understanding Weeds & Noxious Weeds

Reminder! Foundation Meeting

Wednesday, February 8th at 10:30 at the Red Barn

The Yakima County Master Gardener Foundation

What is it and why is it important?

The Foundation that serves the Yakima County Master Gardeners was established for one reason – to manage the assets of the Local Program. It is a wholly separate 501c3 Non-Profit Organization. If we did not have this Foundation, all revenue would go into the collective Master Gardener funds for the entire state. All decisions as to how we spent our money locally would come from the Master Gardener Program overall. A local Foundation ensures that all assets remain local and that all decision-making as to how to manage those assets also remains local.

There are By-Laws that govern how the Foundation will operate – you should all have a copy. The By-Laws identify specifics as to meetings, Board Directors, and such. There are also Position Descriptions for each Board Director – and, again, you should all have a copy. Our By-Laws identify the following Positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Two At-Large Positions, and the Immediate Past President. The Program Coordinator is a **non-voting** member of the Executive Board. Some positions can be filled by the same person for as long as they are willing. The President's position is NOT one of those, an individual can run for two consecutive one-year terms and then someone else must take over the position. (NOTE: **Debra Kroon** is just finishing her second one-year term and therefore is not eligible for re-election).

What are the duties of the Foundation President? In addition to being the “official” representative of the Foundation, the President must build and distribute

the meeting Agenda each month and run the Foundation Meeting. They must also work closely with the Program Coordinator to ensure that Foundation and Program move forward in a unified fashion to manage and improve our local Program. The President does NOT have to serve on the State Foundation, although some do. The President is also responsible for ensuring the By-Laws are updated on a regular basis, which is accomplished by committee. This Position also takes the lead on other items as needed.

All Foundation Members have one vote in Foundation business. What is that business? Well, in short, it is to distribute money to the various Program activities that have been approved for funding. It is also to make sure that our assets remain secure (think Greenhouse as the main one). When the Program identifies a new project that they would like to begin, AND if there is money involved, the proposal is put to the Foundation Members to either approve or disapprove spending the resources. If no money is involved the Foundation does not speak to the project.

We will be having our annual elections in April for the coming year (May-April). My hope is that some of you will reach out and state your willingness to serve in one of the Board Positions. You will have lots of help from the Past President as well as others who have served in the past. I look forward to hearing from you.

~Melody Westmoreland
Immediate Past President

Give Pulse Tip of the Month

by Julie Hunziker

To Access Give Pulse on your computer, go to:

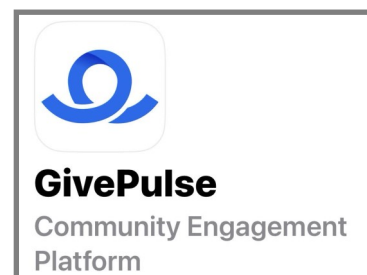
<http://wsu.givepulse.com/group/453187-WSU-Yakima-County-Master-Gardeners>

There's an app for that!!

Thanks to Gilbert Plascencia, we now know there's an app for Give-Go to your app store on your phone or tablet and search for GivePulse. You'll find it looks like this:

After you download the app, sign in to your account and follow the steps to set up the system on your phone or tablet. You should subsequently have to rarely sign in, which seems to be a fairly common hurdle. It asks for all the information needed to enter an impact.

Why be timely in entering your impacts? If you were to be injured in the greenhouse or one of our gardens or another venue, L&I will cover all treatment for your injury. If there's no record of a person "working," L&I will deny coverage.



Pulse.

Greenhouse Effect

Getting out of your car at the greenhouse, you are welcomed by the voices from within. Walking in, you are greeted by the warmth and earthy smell and by your friends. Some people are filling pots, others are watering trays, while more are planting out the seedlings. Having four different days for the 6 different teams has made it a peaceful place to be!

Giving the interns a tour of the greenhouses will help the interns integrate into the planting process.

I was thinking of our lecture yesterday about how we get new plants that we use all the time. It is interesting how plants have that possibility. The perennials, the annuals, the herbs, the Arts, and the basket teams all start propagation by using parts of a plant to make a clone of it. Then we start planting seeds that are a combination of the two plants that created that seed, a new DNA.

Five teams have started their planting. The veggie team will start in early February with labeling the pots. It is easier to have the pots labeled before we plant out the pepper, tomatoes, and other plants and direct sow the pumpkin, cucumber, squash and melon seeds. We plan by counting back the weeks from the Plant Sale and the time it takes for each vegetable to grow to the perfect size. We do not want them long and leggy or too small!!

We are raring to start !!!

~Beatrice Reiss



Photo from YCMG Archives

Veggie Team leaders, Allyn and Beatrice were excited about the appearance of seedlings in recently planted seed trays at the greenhouse.

Youth Team Needs YOU!!

- Youth Team is looking for 2 volunteers for 2 different events at Washington Middle School: **STEAM night Tuesday March 14 from 5-7 PM**; and **Community Science night on April 20th from 6:30-7:30** with informational booths, activities, and experiences for the community, students, and families. Please contact **Michelle** eriganzzz@gmail.com or **Sarah** sarahrjudd01@charter.net
- Youth is hosting planting of Mother's day baskets again this year! Look for more info and sign up next month. A huge THANKS to the Basket Team for their help.
- Youth is looking for volunteers to assist with Downtown Yakima Farmers Market activities the last Sunday, May thru October.

Youth Team



Clods of Dirt

Thank you, Pat & US Cellular!

Thanks to **Pat Bombard** for thinking of Master Gardeners with the \$5000 donation from US Cellular. And thanks to each of you for showing for this fun photo opportunity and promotional opportunity.

~Debra Kroon

Photos by Debra Kroon



Pictured L to R: US Cellular Employee, Beatrice Reiss, Mike Woods, Gilbert Plascencia, Debra Kroon, Pat Bombard, US Cellular Employee

Do You Have Unused or Unneeded Pots??

Every year, member **Suzanne McFeat** takes on a big project all on her own. She plants hundreds of tomatoes, furnishing the soil and receiving leftover starts from a teacher friend. But she is always looking for pots. We can help her with this project. If you have small pots that are round or a different color than we use at the greenhouse, or if you buy things like ice tea or soda from a restaurant, will you rinse those out and save them please? Sue distributes the tomatoes to people in Buena free of charge so they can grow some of their food. I am in the greenhouse every Thursday and Friday and will be at classes, too, and will be glad to collect any and all from you for Sue. Thank you. ~Diana Pieti



A Friendly Reminder

Remember to record your impacts in GivePulse in a timely manner. Are you getting in your CE and pay-back hours? Veterans need to obtain 10 hours of CE each year and return at least 25 hours of volunteer time. Interns need 20 hours class time, 40 volunteer hours that include 15 hours in the Clinic, 9 hours in the greenhouse, 9 hours in the gardens (3 each), and 2 hours with the Youth Team, plus completion of the Canvas coursework.

Why be timely in entering your impacts? If you were to be injured in the greenhouse or one of our gardens or another venue, L&I will cover all treatment for your injury. If there's no record of a person "working," L&I will deny coverage.

Floribunda: Drought-Tolerant Trees

by Carol Barany

In April 2018, Master Gardeners heard Tim Kohlhauff, Urban Horticulturalist at WSU Extension in Spokane, describe 'Drought Impacts and Plant Injury on Trees', and he was well-received. At our diagnostic clinics, gardeners frequently bring in examples of injury or disease, and ask, "What's wrong with my tree?" In searching for answers, many of the problems can be traced to drought stress in the past, with damage that is showing up (sometime years), later.

As it is for all plants, water is a critical resource for trees, and when there isn't enough, decline and sometimes death will follow. Drought slows and reduces growth, limits carbohydrate production, and lowers energy reserves needed to heal wounds and survive winters. Any of these factors can cause death to the entire tree, or just portions. In many cases, prolonged drought will weaken a tree, making it more susceptible to pests or diseases that would not be a problem for a healthy tree. An example is the decline and death of so many of Yakima's stately white birches. Preferring cool, moist soils, they were likely already weakened by drought when the bronze birch borer moved in for the kill.

Kohlhauff recommends many trees that are more sustainable choices for the Inland Northwest. His list of favorites is long, so I included only those with both drought tolerance and pest resistance. I didn't include trees taller than 30' at maturity, giving over-head power lines the space they need. These trees will always need supplemental irrigation, but once established, are more drought tolerant than other species.

American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) Tim says this tree "Won't stop traffic, but would easily win a Good Citizenship award." A slow grower with an attractive open habit in total shade, full sun will make growth denser. The muscle-like bark is smooth, gray, and fluted. Fall color is soft orange to yellow and stands out in the landscape. Few pests. Easily fits into narrower spaces. Medium drought tolerance. 20' x 20'

Apple Serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora*) is a gorgeous early spring bloomer offering great autumn color, and berries that are loved by birds. You can prune it to one trunk or leave it as a multi-stemmed shrub. High drought tolerance. 20' x 15'

Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) Slow-growing Western U.S. native makes it well adapted to alkaline soils and dry conditions. It develops a broad, spreading

canopy and often grows into a multi-stemmed small tree. The 2-5" diameter dark green lobed leaves change into beautiful shades of red, orange and yellow in the fall. High drought tolerance. 20' x 15'

Golden Rain Tree (*Koeleruteria paniculata*) Open-branching, irregularly-shaped. Feathery, compound leaves (to 18" long), emerging pinkish bronze to purplish in spring, maturing to a bright green in summer and turning yellow in fall. Bright yellow flowers (1/2" wide) appear in early summer in long, terminal, panicles (12-15"). Falling blossoms resembling "golden rain". Flowers give way to brown, papery seed capsules that look like Chinese lanterns. Can tolerate heat and air pollution. High drought tolerance. 30' x 25'.

Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*) Later bloom, with large clusters of small creamy-white, fragrant flowers. Good fall color and ornamental bark. Doesn't sucker like many lilacs, growing into a 'tree' rather than 'bush' shape. Attractive to butterflies, hummingbirds, and insect pollinators. Medium drought tolerance. 20-30' x 15-25'

Maackia amurensis (*Amur maackia*) A tough urban tree. A member of the legume family, it supports nitrogen fixing bacteria on its roots. Leaves emerge in the spring covered with silky hairs and give the tree a silvery-gray appearance. Upright racemes of small cream-colored flowers appear in July, a time when few other trees are blooming. Bark is slightly exfoliating in shades of copper and tan. High drought tolerance. 25' x 20'.

Persian Parrotia or Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*) *Fine Gardening* magazine loves this tree as much as Tim does, lauding "one of the most beautiful foliage displays, in addition to year-round eye appeal and ease of maintenance." Reddish-purple in spring, the leaves are a lustrous dark green in summer, and yellow-orange or scarlet in fall. Older branches and trunks develop a beautifully colored exfoliating bark that stands out in the winter garden. Related to witch hazel, plant this tree where you can see the late winter blossoms. Medium/high drought tolerance. 30' x 20'.

Master Gardeners want to plant trees. You and the tree will be happier if you match the species to our unique environment, rather than trying to change the growing conditions. Given that climate warming is likely to bring more droughts, Tim gave us a lot to think about for the long term health of our backyard trees and forests. The bottom line is that drought tolerant trees will have an advantage.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Please visit the **WSU Extension Master Gardeners**
at booth **#2166/2168**
and the **King County Extension Master Gardener**
Plant Clinic at booth **#2611**



The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is delighted to sponsor 2023 Show Judge **ROSS BAYTON**, PhD, Director of Heronswood Gardens and author of *The Gardener's Botanical: An Encyclopedia of Latin Plant Names*.

www.mastergardener.wsu.edu



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

Demonstration Garden

Adopt-a-Bed



Photo from YCMG Archives

Is it too early to write about gardening at the Demonstration Garden? Well, of course not! It is always the right time to talk about gardening, wherever we garden.

We are so ready, aren't we? Last year, we didn't get into the garden until March 2nd, but other years, you have found us out there in February, raking leaves, cutting back perennials, raking leaves, pruning, and raking leaves. Weather tells us when we can be there, so time will tell.

We had such a successful year last growing season and several factors created that. First off, they are Master Gardeners! But, there was one new thing we did last year that made things happen so much better...we began an adoption plan. Volunteers adopted an area to care for and, indeed, they did just that. Thanks to **Marjorie** and **Sue**, who cared for a cutting garden-type raised bed; to **Annette**, **Angela**, and **Debra**, who began a whole new garden team to turn three of our raised beds into native plant beds; to **Angela** and **Patty**, who cared for the roses; to **Sheila**, who is our dahlia girl; and to **Jenny**, who made such a difference in our shade berm.

We will begin our adoption program again in March, and, if this sounds like something you want to do, we have gardens ready for you.

~Diana Pieti

Foundation Board

President: Debra Kroon

Vice President: Dan Fortier

Treasurer: Gilbert Plascencia

Secretary: Pat Bombard

Past President: Melody Westmoreland

Members at Large: Dick Larson
Mike Woods

Program Coordinator: Patricia Ratzlaff

Wanted...

Sure would be nice to have a little microwave in the greenhouse. Do you have one to donate?

Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

Master Gardeners at Home

Surprise!!

The brown ugly leaves have been dropping from my maple trees and it is such a wet mess with several inches thick. Too wet to blow or vacuum up so ended up raking them into big plastic contractor bags. It was cold out, dreary and damp, with no sunshine whatsoever. But I uncovered my beautiful hellebores and saw they were blooming! The colors perked me up in no time and I just knew spring time will be here soon. How amazing our plants give back so much to us if we just take the time to look. It was like a “hide and seek game” and I found the hellebores nestled contentedly amongst the leaves.

~Jenny Mansfield



Photos from Jenny Mansfield



A Gardener's Delight!

Gini Obert found the perfect ergonomic garden fork from Garrett Wade. Just received this as a birthday gift and had to share with all of you veggie growers. This is a small version of those big garden forks that us old folks can no longer muscle around the garden. I'm looking forward to using it this spring to break up some compacted soil and for digging potatoes this fall.

Photo from Gini Obert



Continuing Education Opportunities

WSU Master Gardener Workshops: February

On Tuesdays at 12:00 pm WSU Master Gardeners present weekly on-line **free** programs. No need to register, just pop in. Connection information (YOU MUST HAVE A ZOOM ACCOUNT AND BE SIGNED INTO IT--sign up for one at zoom.us), then join from

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/7756056320?pwd=RzVxbTI0dXpyUjJjSDdsWnJuTXdydzO9>

Meeting ID: 775 605 6320

Password: 12345

Phone Call: +1 253 215 8782, 775 605 6320#

For help, call Gary Fredricks at garyf@wsu.edu or 360-577-3014 Ext. 3.

- **February 7 @ Noon Tuesday Planning your Seed Starting Schedule (on-line)**
When is the best time to start different kinds of seeds (flowers and veggies) so they will be ready to either sow directly in the garden or start indoors so you can transplant them at the proper time? WSU Master Gardeners Sara Clark and Dale Wheeler will share planting and sowing strategies, so you'll be planting at the optimal times for success.
- **February 14 @ Noon Tuesday Seed Starting at Home (on-line)**
Save money and get a jump start on the summer growing season! If you've never started your vegetables from seeds, or haven't been successful in the past, this class is for you. WSU Master Gardener Alice Slusher will walk you through the steps of preparing the planting medium and planting the seeds, as well as timing, proper lighting, and watering techniques.
- **February 21 @ Noon Tuesday Grape Care and Pruning (on-line)**
Are you growing grapes or want to start? WSU Master Gardener Art Fuller will explain everything you wanted to know about pruning grape vines and how to care for grape starts.

PARKING PASSES

Union Gap is still requiring parking passes for the Ahtanum Youth Park. The 2023 Parking Passes are here. **Melody Westmoreland** is the person to see to get your pass. These will be available at classes. They are for current members and interns. You only get the one pass, so make sure you keep it safe.

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. Just a reminder...the newsletter is only as interesting as the articles members send in. Editor appreciates those who send in material.

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



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Class @ Red Barn 12:00-2:30	2 Basket & Herb Teams 9-12	3 Art Team 8-11 Veggie Team 9-12	4
5 Yakima Herald Article	6 Perennials Team 8-11	7 Annuals Team 8:30 - 11:30	8 Foundation Mtg 1030 –11:30 Class @ Red Barn 12:00-2:30	9 Basket & Herb Teams 9-12	10 Art Team 8-11 Veggie Team 9-12	11 Seed Saving Class @ Red Barn 8:30-12
12 Yakima Herald Article	13 Perennials Team 8-11	14 Annuals Team 8:30-11:30	15 Class @ Red Barn 12:00-2:30	16 Basket & Herb Teams 9 -12	17 Art Team 8-11 Veggie Team 9-12	18
19 Yakima Herald Article	20 Perennials Team 8-11	21 Annuals Team 8:30-11:30	22 Class @ Red Barn 12:00-2:30	23 Basket & Herb Teams 9-12	24 Art Team 8-11 Veggie Team 9-12	25
26 Yakima Herald Article	27 Perennials Team 8-11	28 Annuals Team 8:30-11:30				



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.