

# **All Hands On Deck!!**

**Plant Sale May 2nd-5th**

**Sign up for as many shifts as you can work.**

**Check SIGNUP SHEETS for all FOUR days.**

**SECURITY:** Front Gate - Direct shoppers to parking and exit;

**SECURITY:** Back Gate - Check receipts

**PLANT TEAMS** - A knowledgeable team member must be present on all shifts. An additional person is needed as well.

**HOLDING AREA** - Check boxes and baskets for shoppers whose hands are full, and they still wish to shop more. Keep track of whose plants are whose, and help get them to the Counting area when shopper is ready.

**TRAFFIC CONTROL** - Volunteers are needed to direct shoppers to available counters.

**COUNTERS** - A critical position! These volunteers tally each shopper's items to pass along to the cashiers.

**FLOATERS** - These volunteers will be available to help wherever needed. May greet shoppers at door, help stock shelves, help at Holding area, help count, answer questions, etc.

## **SIGN UP TODAY - GUARANTEE YOUR FAVORITE SHIFTS**

*Find the sign-up link on the Weekly Update email. Click on "Sign Up Here" at the top of the red announcement box.*

## **GOT BOXES???**



The plant sale is less than four weeks away, and it's time to take care of some details. We need lots of durable cardboard trays and boxes for our shoppers to carry their plants in. Next time you go to Costco or the grocery store, see if you can nab a few extra boxes. Tall boxes can easily be cut down to 4-5" in depth with a kitchen knife. If every Master Gardener contributed a dozen boxes or trays, it would make the sale go much more smoothly. We don't want to run out of boxes. Thanks so much.

**Reminder!**  
**Foundation/ Program Meetings**  
**Wednesday, April 10th at 10:30 at the Red Barn**

# ***The President's Pen***

Fellow Master Gardeners,

Oh, what a great and beautiful time of the year! Spring is in our valley and we are just a few weeks from our next plant sale. Many of us have worked hard in the greenhouses to get ready for the four-day sale May 2nd through the 5th. Thank you all for your efforts.

Our Foundation Strategic Plan meetings had 23 participants in the four half-days in early February and first of March. Our facilitator, Curt Guaglianone, Ed.D., led us through twelve hours over the course of the four-half days of robust discussion, in which we outlined our priorities going forward. We had four or five tables of discussion groups, and we were split up frequently to encourage greater participation. I was most impressed with all our participants being engaged in our table discussions to narrow down five Strategic Priorities going forward:

Priority 1: Identify and develop a reserve fund

Priority 2: Enhance and expand collaboration and partnerships

Priority 3: Long-term strategy for a single location

Priority 4: Expand annual fundraising sources beyond our current single-source plant sale

Priority 5: Analyze Foundation infrastructure for status, needs, and safety

Please refer to our [website](#) for the copy of this final document we agreed on.

Committees have been established for each of these priorities and you will be informed about when they meet.

I look forward to our future together with Yakima County Master Gardeners Foundation. The experience with all of you in the planning sessions is our future for the years ahead.

Very much appreciated,

Dan Fortier

## ***Foundation News***

Slate for upcoming April election:

President: **Dan Fortier**

Vice President: **Rick Russell**

Treasurer: **Amber Knox**

Secretary: **Annette Olson**

Members-At-Large: **Sheila Gunderson**  
**Beatrice Reiss**

Immediate Past President: **Debra Kroon**

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



*Dan presented Curt with a thank-you basket at the end of the four-day Strategic Plan meetings.*

# Greenhouse



**Don and Rick** work on installing a cover at the north end of the hoop house so that the tender vegetable plants will be protected from the cold. Photo by **Debra Kroon**.

## Did you know???

Did you miss the Botany class on January 24th? I think we ALL did! Good news! You can make it up! Trainees, this is a great way to get that MG Basic Training in. It's free...and online through Oregon State University.

[Basic Botany Online Course](#)

## Foundation Board

**President:** Dan Fortier

**Vice President:** Rick Russell

**Treasurer:** Gilbert Plascencia

**Secretary:** Janet Jones

**Members at Large:** Dick Larson

Sheila Gunderson

**Past President:** Debra Kroon

## Program Coordinator:

Patricia Ratzlaff

**Plants Galore!** This is what happens when you ask Master Gardeners to share their houseplants with 6 classes of Selah Middle Schoolers. There was barely room for me in the car. The kids learned all about plant propagation and we had enough plant material for nearly 200 students to take home starts of 2-3 plants. **Thank you!**

*~Carol Barany*



# Master Gardeners at Home

**Shellie** shares photos of her cherry trees (Prunus 'Accolade') which are in full bloom and the bees are all over them! Simply beautiful!!



## 2024 Trainee Spotlights



An interest in the concepts of Japanese gardens, along with the opportunity to be outdoors and engaged in the natural world, brought veteran Master Gardener **Barbara Schmitt** to the Yakima County Master Gardeners group. Barbara will celebrate her first year as a Yakima resident in May. She is a retired art director/creative director and her career took her to ad agencies and marketing firms in Northern California, Colorado and Seattle. Barbara has been a Master Gardener since 2018, when she called Island County her home. She said she became a Master Gardener because it offered her "a chance to learn, share knowledge, and engage in the spirit of a renewing environment and to spend time with kindred folks." She enjoys biking, hiking with her dog Tucker and her friends, reading, art, jazz music and travel. She has three brothers, Mark in Yakima, Dan in Prosser and Ed in Vancouver, BC.

**Dennis Marquis** has lived in Yakima County for over 30 years and has been gardening for over 40 years. Dennis is retired and enjoyed a career encompassing serving our country in the Navy (Thank you for your service, Dennis!), working for the phone company and working with the TSA Transportation Security Administration). As a gardening enthusiast for years, Dennis likes growing a variety of plants, but finds that luffas, tomatoes, and peppers call to his heart. His interest in the MG program spurs from his deep desire to grow better, produce more and bigger products in his garden, and expand his garden choices. Dennis' other hobbies include computers, 3D printers, and woodworking. Dennis is married and he and his wife have two dogs.

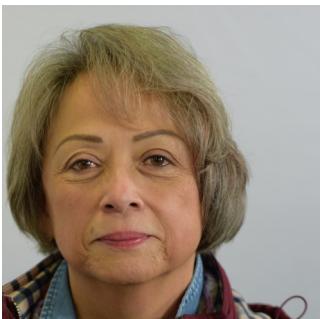


## 2024 Trainee Spotlights



**Angie Kivett** loves growing her own food and feeling confident it is pesticide-free, as well as enjoying the better taste of fresh vegetables. She became interested in gardening 19 years ago, when her family moved into a house that had a raised bed garden. She is interested in non-toxic sustainable living, and has started making some of her own household products. Angie's work experiences include a previous job with the Yakima School District, and a jewelry store. She also owned a second hand/vintage store and most recently worked in a zero waste shop, a job "I loved," she said. Married for 23 years, Angie and her husband have two daughters, 17 and 20.

**Rhonda Gardinier** has been a resident of Yakima for about 13 years now and is the Director of the WSU Upward Bound Program for Yakima County, which is a college readiness program for high school students. Rhonda has been gardening for over 40 years and loves tending to her container flowers, houseplants, and her lovely raspberry patch. Rhonda's love of gardening stems from her amazement at how a tiny seed or a leaf/stem can become a brand-new plant. Rhonda's interest in the MG program stems from her desire to improve her gardening skills, her love of learning and sharing knowledge, plus something enjoyable to keep her busy when she retires. Her other hobbies include garment sewing, scrapbooking and any new DIY project she can hunt down! Upon retirement she wants to learn carpentry/remodeling skills. Rhonda has two sons living in Los Angeles and a daughter in Missoula and four brothers throughout Washington state.



**Cary Tauscher** is a Yakima native, but left in 1980 to pursue an education and career in Los Angeles, returning to the Valley in 2022. She retired from a 40-year+ career in the maritime industry managing maritime operations and industrial labor contract negotiations and administration. She spent her entire career dreaming of returning and retiring in the Yakima Valley and having all the room she needed to just dig in the dirt and listen to the birds. She states she has been playing in the dirt all her life. As a young girl, she has fond memories of sharing gardening with her father (vegetables and a beautiful rose garden) and spending her childhood summers farming with family of the Filipino community of Wapato. Upon the first mention of a Master Gardener program, it seemed her natural course to want to be a part of a group of people that loved gardening, nature and sharing that knowledge with everyone and anyone who had an interest. Everything about gardening draws Cary's interest – from a tiny seed to the end-of-life cycle and every little thing in-between. Outside of vegetable gardening (and now trying to learn to landscape almost three acres and start keeping chickens) her other interests include food preservation, cooking/baking, quilting, machine embroidery, fishing and camping and reading anything about any of those subjects. Cary and her husband reside in West Valley with fond memories of their recently passed babies: Dazy, a Jack Russell dog of 13 years and Homer, an African parrot of 32 years.



**Hilary Brooks-Alexander** has been interested in gardening all of her adult life. She enjoys growing things she uses to make artful wreaths. She also enjoys photography and "being in nature." Before she retired, Hilary was a state social worker. Hilary was drawn to Master Gardeners because she wants to learn more about the balance of the soil, fertilizer, water, temperatures, growing times, insects, and plant ID. She has one "amazing" daughter, two English Springer spaniels, and three cats.

**Many thanks to Cary Tauscher and Carrie Chicken for compiling the New Trainee Questionnaires into a presentable form for the newsletter.**

# Youth Team

## Mother's Day baskets

by Michelle Murphy

What a wonderful morning as 10 Master Gardeners and 22 "mini gardeners" spent time planting Mother's Day baskets on March 16. All participants were enthusiastic and creative! The beautiful baskets are now resting comfortably in the greenhouse for a few weeks so they can grow fuller. Thank you to all the participants and helpers for making the day a success. A special thanks to the Hanging Basket Team for providing the baskets and plants again this year.



*Paulein, Patty D., Mary H, Vickie, and Marguerite assist young gardeners in creating hanging baskets.*

## Our First Annual Seed Swap

by Diana Pieti

Thanks so much to member, **Marjorie Conzatti** for creating our first plant/seed swap. It will not be our last! She did a great job of organizing this event, even having door prizes. It was great to see new members **Debbie** and **Gina**. We think **Debbie** brought half of her garden to share! There were seeds galore from **Janice** and **Margie**, as well as nice raspberries from **Angela**. We were provided little envelopes for transporting seeds home. I am so glad to get the Teddy Bear sunflowers from **Janice** and the Kiss Me Over The Garden Gate from **Margie**. If you missed this event you missed a good one!



# Clods of Dirt

## Pots Needed

The Women's Century Club is holding their annual plant sale the first weekend of May. As they start seeds and propagate plants, they are looking for pots of all sizes. They will be growing and selling mint, peppers, and tomatoes. Probably more.

Please contact **Dee Adams**.



## An Eye for Detail...Please Note:

**Dee Adams** reports that she is not receiving emails from members. Her email address is [deeaadams@msn.com](mailto:deeaadams@msn.com). Note that there are two "a's" as well as the two "e's."

**Nancy Colleran** asks people to make note in their directories that her email is "gmail" not "msn."

# *Floribunda: Dividing Perennials*

Submitted by Carol Barany

Have you been gardening long enough to remember when perennials were heralded as “carefree,” plants you could plunk in once and forget about? While it’s true that perennials are persistent and enduring, they’re not eternal. They’ll need rejuvenation from time to time. A few, like peonies, can go for decades without division. But for most, all those new stems and roots will eventually crowd each other in a wild competition for sun, water, and nutrients. The results are plants that don’t seem as robust as when you first planted them, perhaps producing smaller flowers. Sometimes old clumps will die out in the center, or require staking that was unnecessary a few years earlier. It’s a plants way of telling us, “I can’t live like this anymore. Get out here and do some gardening.”

Division can be sweaty, dirty work, but I know gardeners who don’t see it that way. Some buy a single pot of a plant they covet, and immediately divide it into three. In a few seasons, three becomes nine, and nine becomes twenty-seven; all the plants they need to create enviable drifts of color running through the garden. Others take a single piece of a treasured heirloom and tenderly multiply it for the generations to come. This is gardening at its finest.

Whether you’re like me and procrastinate until you can’t put it off anymore or see division as something worth celebrating, here are some guidelines.

Word on the street is that spring and early-summer blooming perennials should be divided in the fall, and summer and fall-blooming perennials should be divided in the spring. I’ve found that most perennials can be divided any time of the year if given excellent post-op care.

Before you begin, the plants should be well-watered. If you haven’t done it already, cut back stems and foliage to 6 inches. Dig deep all around the plant, starting out at the drip-line, cleanly severing the roots. Pry underneath, lifting the whole clump. To manage very heavy root balls, slice down through the center like you would a pizza, making halves or quarters, before undercutting and lifting the smaller sections. Shake or hose off loose soil.

Once the clump is out of the ground, determine what type of root system you have to deal with. Some per-

ennials grow on roots so loosely woven together that they almost fall apart when you handle them with your fingers. Others develop a tangle of interwoven roots so dense that you’ll need a pruning saw.



The goal of all this sweating, cutting, and sawing is a bunch of divisions with several crowns (leafy segments with a good root supply attached). Smaller sections show the strongest growth and produce bigger flowers. Segments from the outer edges of the clump are more vigorous than those from the worn-out center. It’s a fact that perennials multiply exponentially; that’s what got you here in the first place. A single stem can easily triple itself in a single season, yielding a plant that needs dividing again soon.

A lunker of a root ball may yield dozens of divisions, so take what you need and share the rest with gardening friends. There is no shame in letting the compost pile recycle what’s left.

Planting holes should be wide enough to hold the roots with room to spare, and deep enough that the crown of the plant is at soil level. If divisions are not replanted immediately, put them in a bucket in cool shade, covered with damp newspaper. Plant only the healthiest pieces.

The University of Illinois Extension posted a great ‘Dividing Perennial Beds for More Blooms: Four Seasons Gardening Webinar’ on YouTube. It’s worth watching, and I think you can log the time as Continuing Education.

# **2024 Demonstration Garden Classes**

| Date        | Topic  | Presenter                        |
|-------------|--|----------------------------------|
| April 27th  | Ground Covers Using Native Plants            | Emily Hamant                     |
| May 25th    | Canyon Blooms Petals for Patients            | Dr. Kara Lolley                  |
| June 8th    | Transitioning to Natives: A Trio of Trials   | Debra Kroon                      |
| June 22nd   | An Intro to Bees and the WA Bee Atlas        | Dr. Karen Wright                 |
| July 13th   | Invasives New to Central Washington          | Sue Bird                         |
| July 27th   | Challenges of Gardening in the Yakima Valley | Angela Galbreath                 |
| August 10th | Exhibiting at the CWSF                       | Lindy Sheehan                    |
| August 24th | Success with Orchids                         | Mary Brunelle/Nancy Kallenberger |
| Sept 14th   | Success with Natives                         | Ann Autrey                       |
| Sept 28th   | Changing Lawn to a Pollinator Haven          | Kelli Barton                     |

# **2024 Heirloom Garden Classes**

| Date       | Topic                                  | Presenter        |
|------------|--|------------------|
| June 1st   | Common Vegetable Garden Problems       | Claudia Steen    |
| July 6th   | Gardening for Greater Self Sufficiency | Phyllis Pugnetti |
| August 3rd | Organic Gardening Practices            | Phyllis Pugnetti |
| Sept 7th   | Improving Soil Content for Gardening   | Beatrice Reiss   |

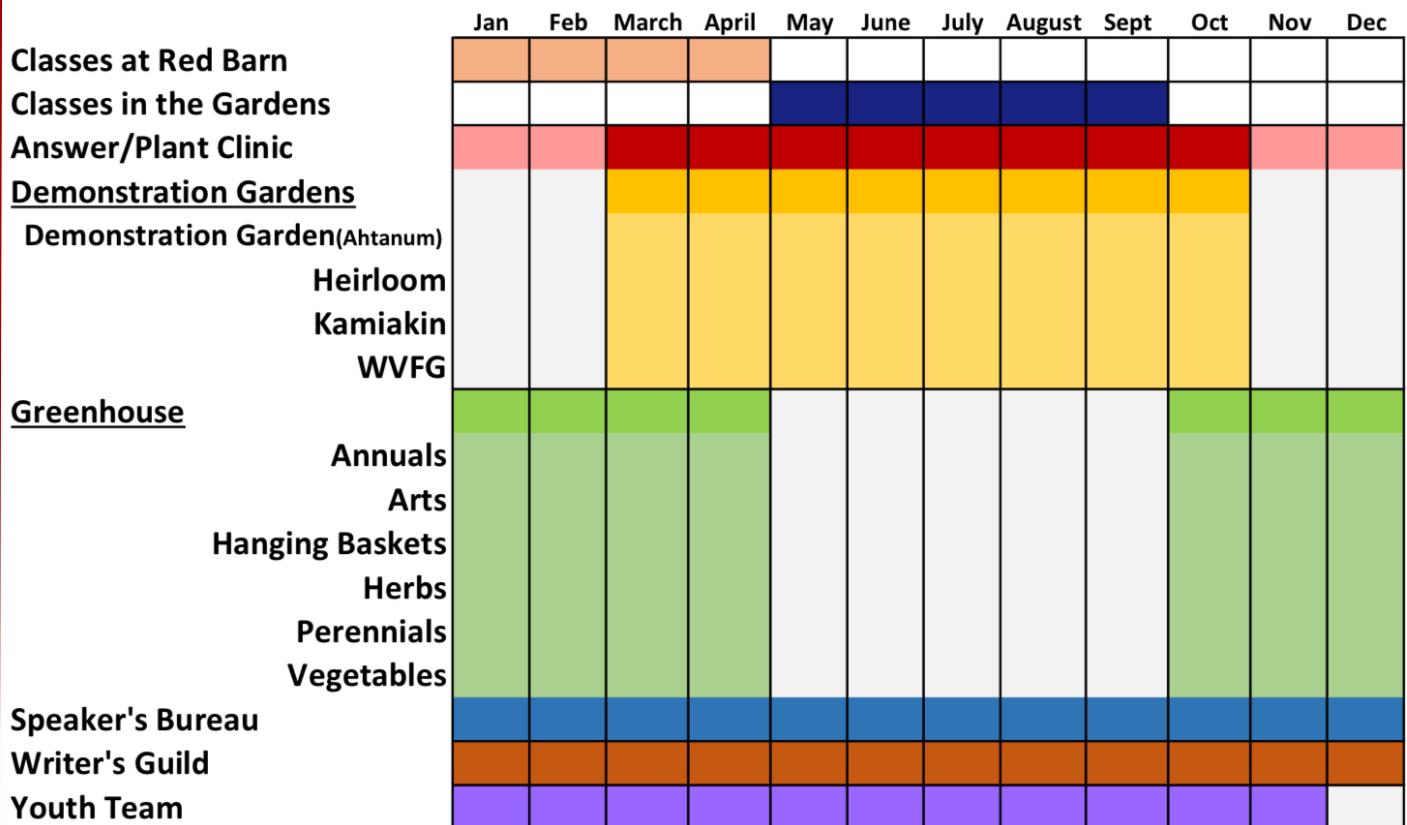
# **2024 WVFG Garden Classes**

| Date      | Topic                                     | Presenter                     |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------|
| May 18th  | Vegetable Container Gardening             | Phyllis Pugnetti              |
| June 15th | Tomato Pruning/Plant Support & Knot Tying | Julie Hunziker/Darrell Monroe |
| July 20th | Enjoying Your Harvest                     | Diana Pieti                   |
| Sept 21st | Rotating Crops/Cover Crops                | Melody Westmoreland           |

# 2024 MG Winter Classes

| Date       | Location | Topic  | Presenter(s)                                    |
|------------|----------|--|---|
| April 3rd  | via Zoom | IPM & Pesticides   | Wendy Wheeler, MS<br>Pullman WSU Extension      |
| April 10th | Red Barn | Understanding Weeds and Noxious Weeds; Hands-on Weed Identification Activity | Susan Bird,<br>Yakima County Noxious Weed Board |
| April 17th | Red Barn | MG Trainee Presentations   | YCMG Trainees                                   |
| April 24th | Red Barn | MG Trainee Presentations<br>Plant Sale Information<br>End of Year Wrap       | YCMG Trainees<br>Plant Sale Team                |

## Master Gardener Venue Work Seasons



Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie at [jbhunziker@gmail.com](mailto:jbhunziker@gmail.com). Texting photos (portrait format preferred) and brief descriptions are fine, as well: (530)209-4329. Please include your name so that credit can be given to the source.

## Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

## 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>

A Shout-Out!! to **John Strong** for including guidelines for entering impacts with each activity in the Weekly Update. Use those as reference when entering impacts.

A bit of clarification is needed for the benefit of the verifiers, Patty, Michelle, and Julie:

- **Class time is 2.25 hours.** We do not include the break time. We see a number of impact entries with 2.5 or even 3.0 hours. Of course, if you arrive late, or leave early, adjust your impact accordingly.
- Our class schedule often has changes after the pamphlet has gone to print. Please keep a note on class topics. We often see errors in impact entries because of changes. A number of people entered "Botany" for our Jan 24th class. Remember?? Our instructor didn't show so we had to do something on the fly.
- When entering an impact for a **Zoom Class** other than our usual YCMG class, please **include the source** in addition to the instructor. Was it Clark County MG? Cowlitz County? Penn State Extension? Verifiers do not have the names at our fingertips and don't have the time or energy to research it. The more information you can give us in an entry, the easier it is for us to verify. We are working at adding the source to the required entry items.



A SEED  
planted today  
is a GIFT  
for tomorrow



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EXTENSION

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Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.



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

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is raising \$1.5 million to hire a horticulture professor fully dedicated to the Program and to the volunteers who give their time and talents.

Learn how your gift will support a greener, healthier Washington when you give to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Endowed Chair Fund.



To support this campaign, scan the QR code or visit  
[mastergardener.wsu.edu/how-to-donate](http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/how-to-donate)

# **Program Requirement Reminder**

## **Interns/Trainees:**

- \* **Canvas** online quizzes/final exam (80% average on all quizzes, 80% on final)
- \* **Class:** Attend 14 of 16 in-person classes (make-up classes arranged through Program Coordinator)
- \* **5 -10 minute presentation on a Plant Clinic question** or a research paper of the same.
- \* **40 hours of Volunteer work with the following breakdown:**
  - **Answer/Plant Clinic:** 15 hours plus Clinic Question answered
  - **Greenhouse:** 9 hours
  - **Demonstration Gardens:** 9 hours (3 hrs in 3 different gardens of Intern's choice)
  - **Youth Team:** 2 hours
  - **Writer's Guild/Speaker's Bureau (optional):** 1 hour with veteran assistance (counts as 1 hour choice)
  - **5 Hours at Intern's choice**
  - **Record all Volunteer time in online tracking system: GivePulse**

## **Veterans:**

- \* **Continuing Education:** 10 hours
- \* **Volunteer Hours:** 25 hours

## **Emeritus:**

- \* **Continuing Education:** 5 hours
- \* **Volunteer time:** 1 hour



## **Yakima County MG Leaders**

**Answer/Plant Clinic:** Andrea Altmayer/Kim Foster/Kelli Barton

**Greenhouse:** Lorie Harrison/Camille Smith/Skip Brockman

**Annuals:** Lorie Harrison/Camille Smith/Deanna Husch

**Perennials:** Carol Barany/Melody Westmoreland/Cathy LeCompte

**Herbs:** Diana Pieti/Diane Berthon/Janice Miller

**Hanging Baskets:** Patty Ferguson/Shellie Oshie/Cathy Penny

**Vegetables:** Don Flyckt/ Allyn Perkins/Beatrice Reiss (emeritus)

**Art:** Jenny Mansfield/Kelli Barton

**Plant Sale:** Deanna Husch, Laura Willet, Reggie Sanderson

**Demonstration Gardens:**

**Ahtanum:** Angela Galbreath/Skip Brockman/Kelli Barton

**Demonstration Garden Classes:** Angela Galbreath/Annette Olson

**Heirloom Garden:** Sally Mayo/Janice Miller

**Kamiakin:** Debra Byrd/Rosebud Guthrie/Greg Uberuaga

**West Valley:** Camille Smith/Kelli Barton/John Strong

**Youth Program:** Open Opportunity/Open Opportunity

**Writer's Guild/Speaker's Bureau:** Claudia Steen/Carol Barany

**Publications:** Julie Hunziker/Debra Kroon/Open Opportunity

**Advisory Board:** Andrea Altmayer/Debra Kroon/John Strong/Julie Hunziker/Michelle Murphy

**Note for Interns:** If you are challenged in getting to any of the venues and earning your hours, please contact the team lead. They are often willing to work with you to help you fulfill your requirements.



# April 2024

| Sun                                    | Mon  | Tue                           | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
|  | 1<br><br><b>Perennials 8-11</b><br><br><b>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</b>  | 2<br><br><b>Annuals 8-11</b>  | 3<br><br><b>Plant Clinic</b><br><br><b>Demonstration Garden 9-11</b><br><br><b>Class (IPM and Pesticides) via Zoom 12-2:30</b>                        | 4<br><br><b>Herbs 8-11</b><br><br><b>Baskets 8-11</b>  | 5<br><br><b>Art 8-11</b><br><br><b>Veggies 8-11</b>  | <i>Rose Pruning Demonstration Garden 10 am</i> |
| 7<br><br><b>Yakima Herald Article</b>  | 8<br><br><b>Perennials 8-11</b><br><br><b>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</b>  | 9<br><br><b>Annuals 8-11</b>  | 10<br><br><b>Plant Clinic</b><br><br><b>Demo Garden 9-11</b><br><br><b>Foundation Mtg @ 10:30</b><br><br><b>Class (Weeds) @ Red Barn 12-2:30</b>      | 11<br><br><b>Herbs 8-11</b><br><br><b>Baskets 8-11</b> | 12<br><br><b>Art 8-11</b><br><br><b>Veggies 8-11</b> | 13<br><br><b>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</b>         |
| 14<br><br><b>Yakima Herald Article</b> | 15<br><br><b>Perennials 8-11</b><br><br><b>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</b> | 16<br><br><b>Annuals 8-11</b> | 17<br><br><b>Plant Clinic</b><br><br><b>Demonstration Garden 9-11</b><br><br><b>MG Trainee Presentations @ Red Barn 12-2:30</b>                       | 18<br><br><b>Herbs 8-11</b><br><br><b>Baskets 8-11</b> | 19<br><br><b>Art 8-11</b><br><br><b>Veggies 8-11</b> | 20<br><br><b>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</b>         |
| 21<br><br><b>Yakima Herald Article</b> | 22<br><br><b>Perennials 8-11</b><br><br><b>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</b> | 23<br><br><b>Annuals 8-11</b> | 24<br><br><b>Plant Clinic</b><br><br><b>Demonstration Garden 9-11</b><br><br><b>MG Trainee Presentations &amp; Plant Sale Info @ Red Barn 12-2:30</b> | 25<br><br><b>Herbs 8-11</b><br><br><b>Baskets 8-11</b> | 26<br><br><b>Art 8-11</b><br><br><b>Veggies 8-11</b> | 27<br><br><b>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</b>         |
| 28<br><br><b>Yakima Herald Article</b> | 29<br><br><b>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</b>                               | 30                            |   |  |  |  |

**Plant Sale Week-All Hands On Deck!**



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.