

**Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County Meeting Minutes**  
**Followed by Yakima County Master Gardener Program Meeting**  
**August 14, 2024**

President Dan Fortier began the meeting at 10:35 a.m. 28 participants attended this Foundation and Program Meeting.

Additional Old Business submitted by Melody Westmoreland concerning Strategic Planning Collaboration and Partnership

Old Business: Safety.

New Business: Symposium.

New Business: Next Year, Diana Pieti.

A motion by Beatrice Reiss was made to approve the July 2024 meeting minutes. Camille Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried and the July 2024 minutes were approved.

A correction to the July 2024 meeting minutes was noted by Richard Russell advising that a DOCUMENT from Gilbert Plascencia was noted as being handed out to the Foundation members. The document was not distributed to the members. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Amber Knox advised that \$96.00 had been expended since last month.

Scholarships for the upcoming Advanced Education Conference discussion concerning clarification on process. Proof of registration to the AEC gets the applicant \$100.00. A total of 10 scholarships were made available. At least five scholarships remain. Interns are eligible for a scholarship.

One request has been made for the two no cost scholarships for members. Amber advised interested people should send her an email requesting the scholarship. Amber

reminded members to send to the Yakima Master Gardener Treasurer email address and not her personal email address.

Mary Hewitt inquired if someone outside Master Gardeners could receive the scholarship. Gilbert Plascencia offered that if the scholarship is not used then that would be okay. However, the preference is for Master Gardener use. Melody Westmoreland cautioned that opening scholarship funding to those outside the Master Gardener program becomes an open door.

Reggie Sanderson asked about the deadline for applying for the scholarship. The State AEC needs the information on the scholarship disbursement by September 15.

Gilbert Plascencia inquired if there is sufficient time to complete a Treasurer Report and if moving the Foundation meeting date would allow more time for submission. Gilbert stated that it is important to have financial statements available at Foundation meetings. Amber responded as the current Treasurer that moving the date of the Foundation meeting is not necessary.

Peggy Chambers requested the amount of money made at the Spring Plant Sale.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Joan Sousley. Patty Dion seconded the motion. The motion was carried and approved.

#### **FALL SYMPOSIUM REPORT by Camille Smith:**

The Fall Symposium has already gone live on the Master Gardener webpage. Seven or eight people have already registered for the symposium.

#### **FINAL APPROVAL of FINANCIAL POLICY DOCUMENTS by Gilbert Plascencia:**

Final approval of two documents, Cash Management and Investment Policy and Accounting Record Retention and Destruction Policy is needed.

Gilbert Plascencia made the motion to approve the policies as put forward in the documents. Richard Russell seconded the motion. The motion carried and was approved.

Concerning the Fiscal Policy and Procedure Manual, Gilbert met with the Executive Board last month to finalize the policy. It will be presented for approval at the September meeting.

Master Gardener Officer position descriptions are being updated.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION by Melody Westmoreland:**

This Strategic Planning Committee has already met with the Yakima Arboretum.

A meeting with the City of Union Gap is being arranged to enhance Master Gardeners partnership with the city. Melody noted that the winter classes in the Red Barn were experienced as very chilly due to the need to replace the furnace. An inquiry was made by Patty Dion on meeting at the Yakima County Extension Conference Rooms as an alternative. Melody noted that other organizations have priority on those conference rooms due to County disasters of Emergency Planning. As a result, any scheduled meetings are bumped making planning for Master Gardener winter classes difficult.

Melody proposed that Master Gardeners Foundation might assist with replacement of the furnace. There are expenses that the City incurs that benefit Master Gardeners in our use of their facilities and property, such as garbage, water, electricity and other costs. Union Gap Manager Sharon Bounds and Public Works Officer Jason Cavanaugh are the City officials that will be involved. President Dan Fortier requested to be advised of the date for the meeting when Melody schedules it.

Concerning the City of Union Gap, Angela Galbreath noted that the Demonstration Garden will celebrate 20 years of being in place next year. Angela wants to be sure that we coordinate with Union Gap on this anniversary.

Diana Pieti stated that for any celebration held in the Demonstration Garden next year Union Gap should be encouraged to set up a table featuring all of their parks.

Melody will send out an email with agenda items for the meeting with the City of Union Gap.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR RESOURCE BUILDING by Diana Pieti:**

The Committee has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, August 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ahtanum Youth Park. The Committee plans on starting small and building.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE ANALYZE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY by Dan Fortier:**

As the leadership position for this Committee is vacant, Beatrice Reiss will chair this committee. Dan thanked Beatrice for taking on this role.

**FOUNDATION MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:59 A.M.**

## **PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Patty Ratzlaff began the Program section of the meeting at 10:59 a.m. by welcoming back Andrea Altmayer.

**Outreach Forms** are a summary to date on activities held by the Master Gardener Program of Yakima County. The Farmer's Market Team again is mentioned for A+++ in submitting their data on the market and the public served.

Concerning the **Outreach Forms**, the Demonstration and Heirloom Gardens have been given the option to report their data at the completion of their garden class series.

Beatrice Reiss inquired if the Outreach Form data could be sent via email. Patty said, "yes."

Patty requested that if there are missing data items on the form that are needed to email her and bring it to her attention.

Gini Obert asked if the "public" includes student counts. Patty advised "yes."

### **MASTER GARDENER HANDBOOK:**

Patty advised that the 2025 Handbook will include FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, WHAT INTERNS CAN AND CANNOT DO, CO-LEAD LISTINGS.

### **YOUTH TEAM:**

Kelly Klingman was asked to step up as Youth Team Co-Lead. Michelle Murphy agreed to mentor Kelly in this role. A Co-Lead is needed for Youth Team.

Kelly asked MGs to provide Compact Disc cases as Youth Team plans to use them to demonstrate how seeds grow so that children can see the process.

### **GIVEPULSE:**

Julie Hunziker and Michelle Murphy are designated to provide Program Support. Patty Ratzlaff will focus on Education.

### **FACEBOOK:**

Andrea Altmayer reported that in the past 28 days, posts on FaceBook reached 1,462 people with 138 engagements (shares/likes/comments). Posts of Master Gardener Garden classes receive the most responses.

Angela Galbreath gave Kudos to Andrea on the FaceBook posts concerning the gardening classes that participants say steered them to the classes.

### **PHOTO LIBRARY by Andrea Altmayer for John Strong:**

The Photo Library continues to grow but slowly. Andrea requested that Master Gardener activity photos be sent to her. The Photo Library is on our website.

Question: If a photo of a Master Gardener activity has gone into the Master Gardener newsletter does the Photo Library receive them? Andrea stated that Julie Hunziker sends them over. Andrea requested that any of the submitted photos be sent to her also as a doublecheck.

### **WRITERS GUILD/SPEAKERS BUREAU by Carol Barany on behalf of herself and Claudia Stein:**

#### **COLUMBINES:**

Several new writers are on board making it easy to fill our Saturday column slots with fresh content. Thanks to all who contribute.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

We were asked to present at the Central Washington State Fair this year in the Ag Building. Our experience at the Fair was uneven. People exploring the Ag Building are not likely to sit down for a lengthy PowerPoint presentation. Past Master Gardener presenters who previously tried that format were unwilling to go back and try again. The goal is to be better prepared for 2025 with a roster of short presentations, "Show and Tell." Perhaps a collection of tomatoes with Cat Facing, Blossom End Rot, and split skins is the way to talk about growing healthy tomatoes. Bouquets of fresh dahlias would get folks' attention to learn about how to grow them.

We will not be speaking this year but look forward to 2025.

### **PLANT CLINIC by Kim Foster:**

First, there are two more scheduled meetings, so please join us as we close out our public facing Plant Clinic. The meetings are scheduled for September 10 and October 8 from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.

There are plenty of opportunities to support the Plant Clinic. Sign up today.

The current Plant Clinic work as follows:

Creating skills and competencies, training materials, and providing structure to the 2025 Intern Training Program.

Exploring the idea of trialing the training program with all MG Veterans first. Veteran MGs learn and the feedback received helps to strengthen the training program.

Watching for question trends, such as inquiries about “weeds growing in my lawn.” A WSU booklet on lawn care is provided, specific weed identification, especially if a weed sample is provided to the Clinic.

**FARMER’S MARKET by Patty Ratzlaff:**

They have been BUSY!

**DEMONSTRATION GARDEN by Angela Galbreath:**

Co-Lead Kelli Barton is travelling.

Angela advised that the Demonstration Garden continues to meet on Tuesdays. Nice changes have been made in the garden. Of course, WEED PULLING!

Brainstorming is ongoing as next year will be the 20 year anniversary of the Demonstration Garden.

Nice work has been done in the Children’s Garden by the Interns who adopted it as a group.

Angela said that those who work in the Demonstration Garden have fun. She encouraged other Master Gardeners to join in.

Diana Pieti emphasized with pride that “the Garden is drop dead gorgeous now!”

Kelli Barton’s relatives toured the Demonstration Garden and expressed the sentiment that “This is a Botanical Garden based on it’s beauty and educational value.”

Diana said that a name tag on each plant in the garden is required to be designated a Botanical Garden. ID tags can be expensive, and they are labor intensive. Diana said that trees and shrubs need to be labeled if nothing else.

**WEST VALLEY FOOD GARDEN by Camille Smith:**

**The WVFG is in harvest mode. The produce from the garden goes to the Highland Food Bank in Tieton.**

**Patty Dion offered to share three grants available if YCMG is interested in applying.**

## **KAMIAKIN GARDENS:**

Debra Byrd reports that a Gardener had been hired. The person hired received another job offer and took that position. Debra is still in the process of hiring for the gardening position.

## **DEMONSTRATION GARDEN CLASSES by Angela Galbreath:**

Angela reported on the two most recent garden classes since our last meeting. Mary Hewitt gave a class on “Challenges of Gardening in the Yakima Valley.” Mary comes from Willamette Valley and the change to the semi-arid and hot Yakima Valley has been an educational and challenging experience. Tumble weeds was a source of humor in this class offering. The presentation in consultation with Veteran Angela Galbreath was well done by Mary.

Lindy Sheehan provided an informative class on “Exhibiting at the Central Washington State Fair.” Participants learned facts on exhibiting and being able to bring in exhibits on a walk-in basis, categories of exhibits and much more. Lindy does a very good job in her presentations.

Angela summed up by informing participants of the remaining three classes in the Demonstration Garden, August 24 “Success with Orchids” by Nancy Kallenberger, September 14 “Success with Natives” by Ann Autrey, and September 28 “Changing Lawn to a Pollinator Haven” by Kelli Barton.

Angela let the group know that Sue Byrd who presented a Demonstration Garden class this season on Invasive Weeds New to Central Washington will be an Exhibitor at the October Symposium.

**For the good of the order, the Master Gardener Program portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m. Patty Ratzlaff advised entering 1 hour under Program Support to GivePulse for this meeting.**

