



Kelli Barton declares that winter has officially arrived with the placement of the seasonal greeters at the Ahtanum Youth Park in late November.

Museum Christmas Tree Display 2024

Museum visitors appreciated our decorated Master Gardener Christmas tree by generously voting for us with their \$1 scrip tickets. Museum staff said crowds were light this season. However, we noticed much of our brochures and business cards were snapped up. That is a good sign of interest for our program in 2025. Thank you to the MGs who collaborated with this outreach project. (Photo by **Mary Kearney**)



Reminder!
Foundation/Program Meetings
Wednesday, January 15th at 10:30 at the Arboretum

Program Coordinator

2025 Basic Training for New Master Gardeners

Corner

Over a year ago, a state-wide committee to study our Basic Training was formed. They have been hard at work to create workable methods to address issues with Basic Training. Listed here are some of the concerns they have been working on.

1. People who would like to take the classes but cannot pull away from their work or family schedule to attend classes during the day.
2. People who would like to take Basic Training and gain a Horticulture certification without becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer.
3. Coordinators who would like additional support to secure WSU staff in presenting for Basic Training.
4. Interns who complain even after certification that they do not feel prepared to work in the clinic or various other venues.

New Format: The team is creating a new format and schedule across the state to address these needs and more. This new class layout will dovetail with the new textbook roll-out this fall of 2025.

Class Name: WSU Extension Green School

Online Learning: All classes will be online and offered across the state beginning in the fall and ending in the early part of the following year. Aspects of 'wet-side' and 'dry-side' of the cascades will be addressed.

Weekly Q & A: All class groups will have weekly live Q & A online. One will be offered during the day and the other during evening hours.

Lab Time Requirements: Along with the online

by Patty Ratzlaff

learning, each county will host lab time, and they may choose when during the year they will meet the 20-hour requirement for labs. Veteran MG's may be teaching some of these labs as well as local experts. Field trips for Interns are allowed as part of lab time.

Labs will be offered for hands-on learning and to help bridge the gap between head knowledge and application.

Cost: Classes have been and will continue to be subsidized for volunteers to contain the cost. Veteran MG's may access the new online learning for 50% of the volunteer price.

The classes will be offered to non-volunteers to earn a Horticulture certification at full cost (which is approximately double the price for Interns).

Interviews: Applicant interviews will still be taking place, however some of the exact dates may be adjusted from the original flyer that was handed out over the summer at the Farmer's Market.

Mentors: I believe mentors will become more important than ever with this new format.

Questions: I realize this information may produce questions that are not addressed in this short article. Please email me at patty.ratzlaff@wsu.edu or call me directly at 509-574-1582 so I can track questions. The team will be meeting in the coming weeks to work with Coordinators' concerns. We will be representing you – so please let me know your thoughts so I can better communicate concerns during these final planning days prior to roll-out.

Deadline to Enter Impacts in GivePulse

January 6th is the deadline for entering 2024 impacts. Time is needed for year-end reports and to prepare for the February awards banquet.

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

2025 MASTER GARDENER
ENRICHMENT SERIES

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTERS	LOCATION
JAN. 15	10:30 - 11:45	FOUNDATION & PROGRAM MEETINGS		ARBORETUM
	12:00 - 2:30	WELCOME: SAFETY, CHILD FIRST, GIVEPULSE INFO, FOUNDATION UPDATES	PATTY RATZLAFF, COORDINATOR AND DAN FORTIER, FOUNDATION PRESIDENT	ARBORETUM
JAN. 22	12:00 - 2:30	URBAN FORESTS	ETHAN BRYSON, FOUNDER OF NATURAL URBAN FORESTS	ARBORETUM
JAN. 29	12:00 - 2:30	MONARCHS IN THEIR CURRENT STATUS AND NATIVE PLANTS & BENEFICIALS	DAVID JAMES, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ENTOMOLOGY, WSU	ARBORETUM
FEB. 5	12:00 - 1:15	PLANT PROBLEMS A	KIM FOSTER AND ANDREA ALTMAYER, YC MASTER GARDENERS AND CLINIC CO-LEADS	ARBORETUM
	1:30 - 2:30	XERCES TALK: PLANT A GARDEN TO RAISE INSECTS	JULIE BANKEN, DOUGLAS-CHELAN MASTER GARDENER & XERCES SPEAKER	
FEB. 12	12:00 - 1:15	PLANT PROBLEMS B	KIM FOSTER AND ANDREA ALTMAYER, YC MASTER GARDENERS AND CLINIC CO-LEADS	ARBORETUM
	1:30 - 2:30	NATIVE PLANTS	NOLA FORSTER AND THESS FENNER, KITTITAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS	ARBORETUM
FEB. 19	10:30 - 11:45	FOUNDATION & PROGRAM MEETINGS		ACTIVITY CENTER
FEB. 22	TBA	SEED SAVING CLASS	PHYLLIS PUGNETTI, YC MASTER GARDENER	ARBORETUM
FEB. 26	12:00 - 2:00	AWARDS: SOUP & CELEBRATION	HOSPITALITY TEAM REGGIE SANDERSON & MARY KEARNEY	ACTIVITY CENTER



Give Pulse Tip of the Month

by Julie Hunziker

It's the end of the year. All hours for 2024 must be recorded in GivePulse no later than January 6th, 2025 for year-end reports and to prepare for the February Awards Banquet.

I thought you would like to know this little statistic:

As of Dec 31st, 2024, our membership has logged over 14,000 hours for the calendar year. Kudos to all who have worked so hard to make our program the success it is!

As activity ramps up in the greenhouse, a few things to note:

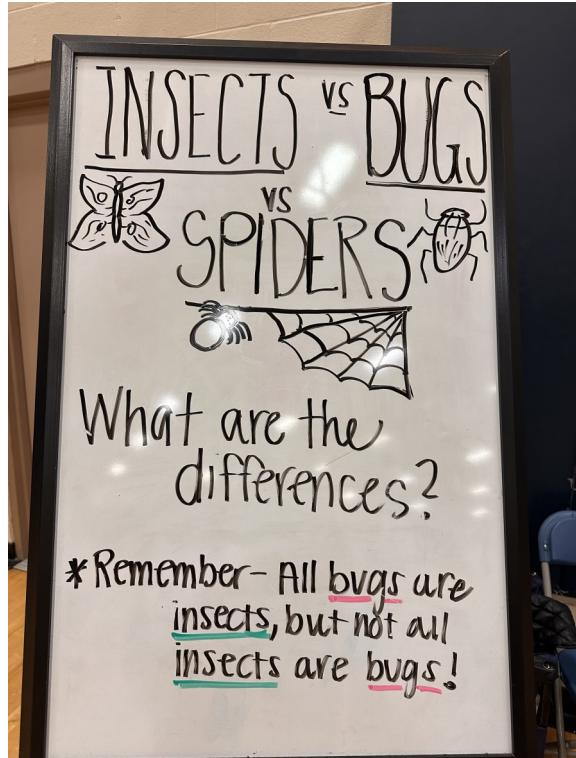
- **Art Team** has its own category in the pull-down menu under Program Support. Although much of the work is done in the greenhouse, please enter it as "**Work on Art Projects.**"
- While working in the greenhouse on the various teams leading up to the plant sale, please enter your impacts as "**Work at Greenhouse.**" We often see "Work before, during, and after the Plant Sale," but that is reserved for more direct plant sale activities, such as plant sale meetings, moving plants into final positions, working the plant sale, and cleaning up after the plant sale.
- Work done for the **Arboretum Tree Data Project** falls under "**Other Educational Delivery.**" From there, you will find "**Arboretum Tree Data Collaboration**" in the Reporting Code pull down menu.



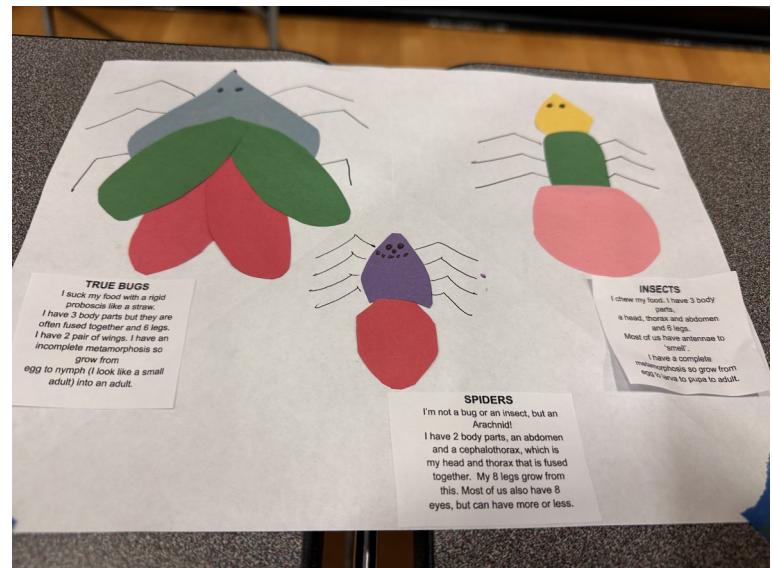
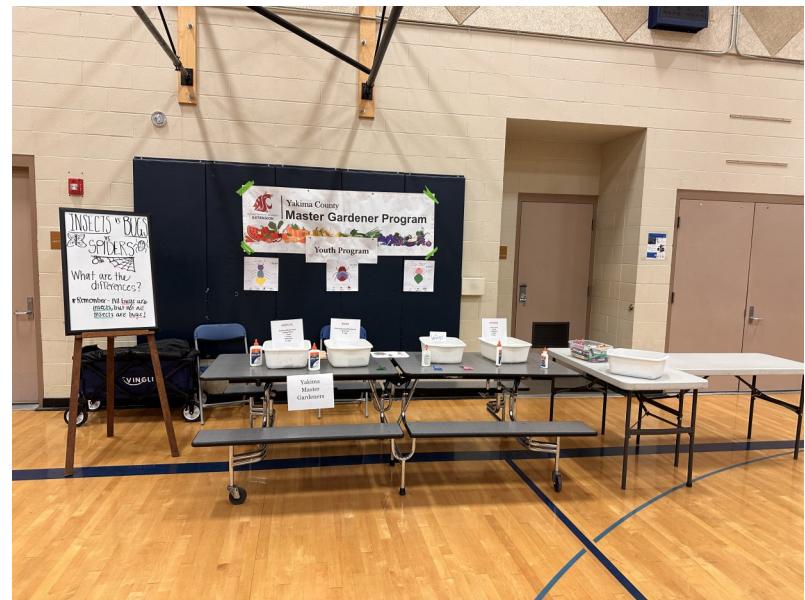
Reflection of the month: A team lead, on buying seeds, stated "Boy, they are getting expensive. Wish we could eliminate hybrid plants from our sale."

Why be timely in entering your impacts? In case of injury claim, L&I needs a record of activity/work. Also, when applying for grants, our hours matter.

At the Franklin Middle School STEAM night, we hosted the “Build your own bug” project again. I loved this kid’s shirt! He was one of the first and when I saw it, I just had to take a photo of him building his bug! Looks like it was a busy, busy night! ~Kelly Klingman



Youth Team



Art Team

ART TEAM IS LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

- Pine cones** - tiny, medium or large sizes
- Driftwood pieces**
- Large size rattan or wicker baskets** – larger than 8" x 10" sizes preferred
- Bowling ball** or two
- Chunky wood picture frames 8.5" x 11" or larger.** I can cut down larger sizes. No metal frames and don't need glass
- Small containers of brightly colored paint**
- Sand paper**, any grit
- Cedar fence boards**, new or used



Three ways to donate:

- Contact **Jenny Mansfield** at ceeron19@comcast.net or 509 480 8829
- Bring to the Foundation Meeting.
- We are usually at the Green House every Friday 9:00 to 11:30 am.

Master Gardener Venue Work Seasons

25 in '25

1. Hang a bird feeder and keep it filled
2. Build a compost bin (and use it)
3. Swap seeds with fellow gardeners
4. Build a raised bed
5. Test your soil
6. Weave native plants into flower beds
7. **Plant more flowers for bees and pollinators**
8. Eat outside as often as possible
9. **Use/keep a garden planner or calendar/keep a garden journal**
10. Leave grass clippings as natural mulch on your lawn
11. **Provide a water source for bees and butterflies**
12. Show a child how to plant zinnias
13. **Try one recipe using an ingredient from your garden**
14. Save seeds from flowers and vegetables to plant next year
15. **Read one gardening-based book**
16. Share your vegetable and flower harvest with the neighbors
17. **Grow your own garlic**
18. Commit to volunteering in a garden and/or greenhouse
19. **Plant a cut-flower garden**
20. Visit a local botanical garden or arboretum
21. **Invite a friend to the Master Gardener program**
22. Organize the garden shed/shelves
23. **Grow a new-to-you vegetable**
24. Be bold and try the Chelsea Chop
25. **Spend 25 minutes outside every day.**

(Adopted and modified from chicagobotanic.org and almanac.com)



Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

Guiding Principles

Act Respectfully
Lead Supportively
Adaptability
Work Together
Always Learning
Emphasize Quality
Communicate Effectively
Be Honest
Take Responsibility

Floribunda: Party for the Birds

Submitted by Carol Barany

Early each morning, I pour a cup of coffee and check my e-mail for Fine Gardening magazine's Garden Photo of the Day. A perk for subscribers, readers from all over the world submit pictures and stories of their gardens. It's a great way to start the day.

Earlier this year, a garden in Central Vermont's Zone 4 was featured. While winter is always a long season there, Covid quarantines left one gardener with even more time on her hands. Cheryl decided to throw a party for wild birds, and you should too.

Several types of feeders place at varied heights and locations in the garden will attract a wider variety of bird species to the party. Many of us have been feeding wild birds for years, but maybe it's time to offer a new type of feeder.

Covered tray feeders, hopper feeders and tube feeders attract an array of seed-eating birds, while a mesh sock or specialty thistle feeder may bring in more finches. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, black oil sunflower seed attracts the widest variety of birds and, because of its thin shell, is easy for almost all seed eaters to crack open. It also provides a high fat content that is important for birds' winter survival.

For the last three winters, overwintering Anna's hummingbirds visited the heated nectar feeder I hang outside my kitchen window. The heat generat-

ed from a low-watt light bulb housed below the nectar receptacle is all it takes to keep the liquid from freezing. (Nectar in unheated standard feeders will begin to freeze at 27 degrees) On the coldest days of winter, a handful of hummers arrive just as the sun comes up, and buzz in throughout the day.

It really isn't a party unless there are special treats for birds to eat. Making them yourself is easy. A perfect holiday project for Yakima gardeners, you'll have even more fun if you make these with children.

BIRD SEED COOKIES

Ingredients

- 4 cups wild bird food (you can add sunflower seeds, meal worms, cracked corn, peanuts, chopped dried fruit, nuts, or pumpkin seeds for a total of 4 cups)
- 2 envelopes unflavored gelatin (a one ounce box contains 4 envelopes) dissolved in 1 cup of hot water
- 1/4 cup flour mixed into 1/3 cup water
- Cookie cutters or other small molds such as canning jar rings
- 3" sections of small twigs or skewers to make the holes for hanging
- Twine for hanging

Instructions

1. Spray cookie cutters or molds with non-stick spray and place on a cookie sheet. Simple shapes are easier to unmold than shapes with many angles.
2. Empty the gelatin into a large bowl, add the hot water, and stir until gelatin dissolves.
3. Mix flour and water together in a small bowl to form a smooth paste. Add the flour paste to the gelatin mixture and stir to combine. This is the binder that will hold the seeds together.
4. Add the bird food and stir until well combined.
5. Fill the cookie cutters with the mixture, taking care to press it firmly in place. This step is important. The more packed the seed mixture is, the better the cookies will unmold and hold

(continued next page)



(Floribunda, continued)

their shape. I found this recipe will make 7-8 average size cookies.

6. Make a small hole with the twig or skewer for the twine at least 1" down from the edge of the mold. This placement will keep the twine from breaking through the hole when hung. Leave the skewers in place until the cookies dry.
7. Let air dry for several days and then carefully unmold.
8. Thread the twine through the hole in the cookie and make a loop.
9. Hang in a dry, protected location where the birds will have a branch or perch nearby to sit on while they eat.

PINE CONE FEEDERS are even easier to make. Gently brush off any dirt on the pine cone. Tie a string in a secure loop around the top of the cone, leaving enough string to attach it to a branch. Spread a generous layer of peanut butter on the pine cone, making sure that all the nooks and crannies are filled. Roll the cone in wild bird food until well-covered, pressing the seeds into the peanut butter to make sure they stick. Hang the feeder on a tree branch or in a shrubby location where birds can perch while enjoying their treat. This feeder is best used in the winter. Hot summer temperatures can melt peanut butter into a messy and rancid mess.

Every day is a party if you garden with birds in mind. Plant native berries or fruit trees, and let some flowers go to seed in the fall. While birds rely on foods in the environment, they will supplement with seed, suet, and fruit from feeders when it's hard to find



natural sources, especially after a snowfall. If that's not reason enough to keep your feeders full, then the amazing sights and sounds of birds, just outside your window, should do it.

In addition to food, try to provide as many different habitats as possible, whether in birdhouses, natural tree cavities, copses of ornamental grasses and dried perennials, or evergreens and shrubs.

Most of us think about feeding birds during the winter months, but experts say we can do it all year long. Food can be hard to find at any time of year for wild birds, so giving them an easy meal when they need it can help boost their survival rate.

Each time you refill the feeder, check to be sure food remains dry and fresh. Any seeds that are clumped, moldy or sprouting should be discarded. Thoroughly clean all feeders at least once a month. Wearing disposable gloves, scrub them with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts hot water. Rinse and dry before refilling. Be sure to only hang as many feeders as you can responsibly and reliably maintain.

Editor's Note: It's great to see Carol back in the saddle!

CE Opportunity!

Cowlitz County Master Gardeners offer free online videos: click here: <https://www.cowlitzcomg.com/workshops-videos>

King County Master Gardeners offer their Growing Groceries series, \$8 per class or \$40 for the 6 classes:

Cool Season classes run Jan 22nd-April 2nd; Warm Season classes run April 16th– June 25th. Click here for information and to register: <https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/education/gg/>

Yakima County MG Leaders

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

Greenhouse: Camille Smith/Skip Brockman/Kelli Barton

Annuals: Lorie Harrison/Camille Smith/Deanna Husch

Perennials: Carol Barany/Melody Westmoreland

Herbs: Diana Pieti/Diane Berthon/Janice Miller

Hanging Baskets: Mary Hewitt/Shellie Oshie/Cathy Penny

Vegetables: Don Flyckt/ Beatrice Reiss

Art: Jenny Mansfield/Mary Hewitt/Debbie Sundlee

Plant Sale: Laura Willet, Reggie Sanderson

Demonstration Gardens:

Ahtanum: Sue Schauer/Skip Brockman/Kelli Barton

Classes: Annette Olson

Heirloom Garden: Sally Mayo/Janice Miller

West Valley: Camille Smith/Kelli Barton/John Strong

Youth Program: Kelly Klingman/Jennifer Harris

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

Publications: Julie Hunziker/Debra Kroon/Rhonda Gardinier/Steve Kuhn

Garden Tour: Jenny Mansfield/Lucy Stevens/ Barbara Schmitt

Hospitality: Reggie Sanderson/Mary Kearney

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.

Yakima County Master Gardener Garden Locations

Demonstration Garden (Ahtanum):

1000 Ahtanum Road, Union Gap

(by Red Barn)

Heirloom Garden:

1522 South 18th Avenue, Yakima

(just south of the greenhouses)

West Valley Food Garden:

602 South 123rd Ave, Yakima

Kamiakin Gardens:



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

Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie at 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.

Foundation Board

President: Dan Fortier

Vice President: Rick Russell

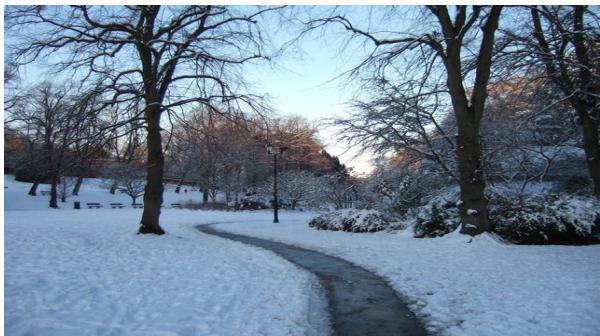
Treasurer: Amber Knox

Secretary: Annette Olson

Members at Large: Beatrice Reiss/Sheila Gunderson

Past President: Debra Kroon

Program Coordinator: Patricia Ratzlaff



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 Yakima Herald Article	6 Perennials 9-11	7 Annuals 9-11	8	9 Herbs 9-11 Baskets 9-11	10 Art 9-11	11
12 Yakima Herald Article	13 Perennials 9-11	14 Annuals 9-11	15 Foundation/Program Mtg @ 10:30 Enrichment Class 12-2:30 "Welcome"	16 Herbs 9-11 Baskets 9-11	17 Art 9-11	18
19 Yakima Herald Article	20 Perennials 9-11	21 Annuals 9-11	22 Enrichment Class @ Arboretum 12-2:30 "Urban Forests"	23 Herbs 9-11 Baskets 9-11	24 Art 9-11	25
26 Yakima Herald Article	27 Perennials 9-11	28 Annuals 9-11	29 Enrichment Class @ Arboretum 12-2:30 "Monarchs"	30 Herbs 9-11 Baskets 9-11	31 Art 9-11 Veggies 9-11	



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.