

Welcome Audrey Baker, Yakima-Kittitas Program Coordinator!

Surely you have heard by now that we have a new Master Gardener Program Coordinator. Audrey joins our leadership team having been involved in program management, volunteer engagement, community partnerships, and educational programming across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Maybe you recognize her as one of our recent interns as she entered our program as a member of the Class of 2026 before transferring to the Kittitas County program since she lives in Ellensburg with her husband. She is the daughter-in-law of another one of our interns, Janet Beck. We welcome Audrey with open arms and look forward to working with her as she helps guide us in growing our program.



MG Program Priorities

Local Food
Pollinators
Wildfire Preparedness
Water Conservation
Clean Water
Climate Change
Nearby Nature
Plant Biodiversity
Soil Health

Dear MG friends ,
A huge thank you to all for your kind and caring cards, flowers, gifts, and food. It warmed my heart and supported me. I really appreciate all of you.
Thank you from the bottom of my heart .



~Beatrice

There will be a July Answer Clinic Meeting. Next meeting will be Thursday July 23rd.

Program Meeting
Wednesday July 15th @ 11:00
at the Red Barn
(Note the time change)

Master Gardener Summer Picnic is Just Around The Corner!!

***Wednesday August 5th @ Noon
At the lawn by the Red Barn***



As usual, we're asking members to bring potluck items according to the first letter of their last name in the following categories:

A-C: Chips, breads, relishes, condiments, etc.

D-G: Dessert

H-M: Main Dish

N-Z: Side Dish

The Foundation will provide a meat entrée, plates, napkins, plastic table service, some serving utensils, and water.

We are asking for donations of new or gently used garden style items for our summer picnic giveaways. This is a fun part of the picnic that everyone enjoys so your donations are greatly appreciated. Either bring them with you that day or Patty Ferguson can pick them up beforehand, 509-952-2551.

Amazing Food. Door Prizes. Friendly Fellowship!

**REPORT
JAPANESE
BEETLE**



AGR.WA.GOV/BETLES

Be on the Look Out!

Have you seen this pest? Thousands of Japanese beetles have been found in Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties. If you spot this pest, take a photo and report it at agr.wa.gov/beetles.

See it? Report it! Japanese beetles are destructive, invasive pests that attack over 300 types of plants.

Snap a photo and report at agr.wa.gov/beetles.

Intern Focus

Did you know???

The veterans want to meet you and see you and get to know you. They really are a friendly bunch. Besides working alongside you, they like to have fun by hobnobbing with everyone at our social events like the August picnic. Hope to see you there!

Master Gardener Yard Tour Highlights

June 16th found 25 Master Gardeners traipsing across the West Valley, touring four yards of our members. Laura Gaviglio shared the history of her historic home, the Rosedell Mansion, in the Barge-Chestnut neighborhood.



Above: *Laura* shared the history of a number of trees on the property.



Left: *Laura* holds a specimen for *Angela* to take a photo while other MGs look on.

Right: A peaceful water feature on the grounds.

(Photos by **Barb Schmitt**)



At the second stop, **Angela Galbreath** shared a yard full of flowers, with all plants tastefully labeled so they were easily identified.

More Master Gardener Yard Tour Highlights



Above: The entrance to **Patty Dion's** yard was warm and welcoming. People loved the yard art and vertical aspects of the backyard as well as the she-shed.



Photos by **Kelly Klingman**



Julie Hunziker talked about the numerous changes she and her husband have made to the yard, including an expanse of block walls to mitigate the hillside, the patio upgrade, and her prized she-shop (which she inadvertently forgot to open to the guests). Lunch and fellowship were enjoyed on the patio.



Understanding the Foundation's Bylaws: How the Foundation Operates

Building on last month's discussion of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and how the Program and Foundation work together, July turns to the Foundation's Bylaws. While the MOA explains the relationship between the two organizations, the bylaws define how the Foundation governs itself, makes decisions, and operates day to day.

What the Bylaws Do

The bylaws are the Foundation's internal rulebook. They establish how the organization is structured and how it functions, including:

- How membership works and who participates in decisions
- How the Board of Directors is formed and operates
- How officers are selected and carry out their responsibilities
- How decisions are made, including voting and meeting requirements

How funds and resources are managed in support of the Foundation's purpose

At a high level, the bylaws ensure that the Foundation operates in a consistent, transparent, and accountable way.

How Governance Works in Practice

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors made up of active members. Directors are elected by the membership and serve defined terms, which helps balance continuity with opportunities for new leadership.

Within the Board, officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) are selected to carry out specific roles. These roles help ensure that meetings are held, records are maintained, and financial responsibilities are properly managed.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the Foundation's activities, including financial stewardship and support of Program needs. At the same time, members retain an important role through voting, participation in meetings, and involvement in key decisions.

Membership and Participation

One of the key points in the bylaws is that all Master Gardeners in good standing are eligible to participate as members of the Foundation. Active members have voting rights and help guide the direction of the organization through elections and other decisions.

This structure reinforces that the Foundation is member-driven. The Board provides leadership and oversight, but membership plays a central role in governance and long-term direction.

If you are not currently a Foundation member, this is a good time to consider joining. Membership is straightforward and does not involve dues. It simply requires completing the membership form available on the Foundation's website so that your participation can be formally recognized.

Why This Matters

The bylaws may feel more formal than the topics we've covered in prior months, but they play an important role in how the Foundation functions. They ensure that:

- Decisions are made at the right level and follow a defined process,
- Leadership roles and responsibilities are clear, and Financial and operational oversight is carried out consistently.

In practical terms, the bylaws help avoid confusion, support accountability, and provide a stable framework that allows the Foundation to operate effectively year after year.

Looking Ahead

With an understanding of the MOA and the Foundation's governing framework now in place, the next step is focusing on participation and leadership.

In August, Foundation News will turn to Board service, including how directors are elected, how terms are structured, and what members can expect if they are interested in serving. The goal is to make these opportunities clear and accessible so that we continue building a strong and sustainable leadership pipeline for the Foundation.

Foundation Board

President: Rick Russell

Vice President: Dick Larson

Treasurer: Gilbert Plascencia

Secretary: Carrie Chicken

Members at Large: Beatrice Reiss/
Steve Kuhn

Past President: Dan Fortier

Program Coordinator:

Audrey Baker

Around Our Gardens

The team has been busy painting the new shed, just in time for the first class in the Garden. It was nice to do something besides tend to the weeds, they say. (Photos by *Kelly K*)

Heirloom Garden



The garden is looking loved.



Sarah and *Sally* apply a primer coat to the shed.



Reggie applies a final coat to the shed while *Connie* refills her paint tray.



Ahtanum Park Garden



If you look really closely, you can see this mourning dove's nest on the right hand side. We're all aunts and uncles (Photo by **Kelli B.**)



Kelly K caught the Voodoo Lily's single bloom of the year.



When visiting the APG, look for the variety of colored pencils. Thank you to **Camille** for her efforts in making them and to **Rick** for their installation.



The crew enjoys some downtime with coffee, water, snacks, and friendly visits.

West Valley Food Garden

Harvest has begun at the WVFG, with it all going to the Highland Food Bank in Tieton. Team leads **Camille Smith, Kelli Barton, and John Strong** work closely with the administrators of the food bank to provide produce with what the customers want. (Photos by **Kelly K**)



Statewide Program Director

A snippet from the state report by Jennifer Marquis

From the State [2025 Impact Report](#), our nine program priorities were grouped under three umbrellas: Resilient Gardening, Nutrition Security, and People & Plants. This month's focus: Resilient Gardening.



73% Employ water conservation practices

Resilient Gardening programming decreases water consumption. **19,600 adults and youth** learned about water conserving gardening practices through **2,600 educational outreach events**.



By the numbers (2025)

Clean water is essential for healthy communities, thriving ecosystems, and strong local economies. The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program protects this vital resource by teaching how everyday gardening decisions affect water quality. Volunteers addressed 5,116 public inquiries on least-toxic pest control and organized 1,060 educational events focused on integrated pest management and responsible chemical use. Through these efforts, 3,725

adults and 1,795 youth learned how to prevent pollutants from entering waterways, reduce erosion and runoff, and make informed decisions about fertilizers and pesticides.

Surveyed participants reported increased understanding of clean water's importance, the threats it faces, and their personal responsibility in protecting it—and 80% committed to reducing the use of chemicals and sustainable gardening practices. Together, these actions help safeguard clean water for current and future generations.



By the numbers (2025)

Climate change is bringing hotter summers, warmer winters, and more extreme weather, making it harder for Washington residents to maintain healthy plants and resilient landscapes. The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program delivers essential public value by helping communities adapt with practical, science-based guidance.

Volunteers provided 1,953 climate-related answers, engaged 255 youth and 2,009 adults, and delivered 184 events focused on drought-tolerant plants, water-wise practices, soil health, and managing pests and diseases in a warming climate.

72% of surveyed participants committed to applying landscape design principles that help reduce their own impact on climate change. Together these efforts empower home gardeners to take informed climate action—strengthening community resilience, protecting natural resources, and supporting healthier ecosystems for future generations.



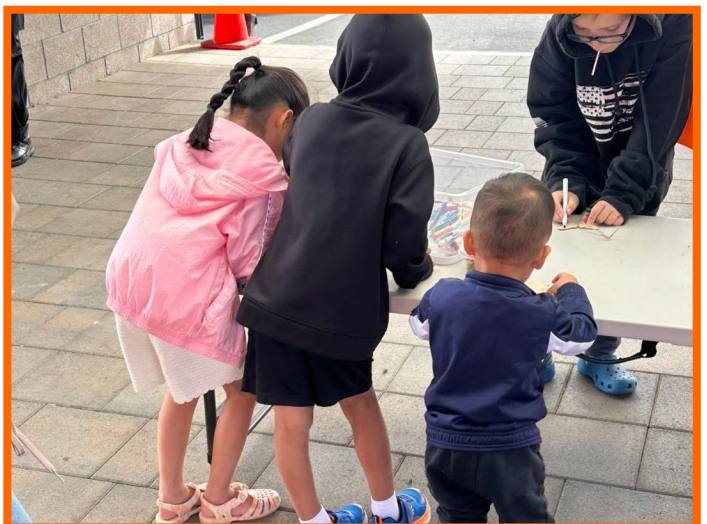
By the numbers (2025)

Extension Master Gardener volunteers play a vital role in helping communities conserve water—a resource essential to people, agriculture, and the environment. Through 1,388 total educational events (including classes, demonstrations, workshops, and field days), volunteers taught residents practical, science-based strategies for reducing water use in home landscapes. They also educated 1,824 adults and 1,342 youth, answered 5,247 water conservation questions, and taught at 129 demonstration gardens that model waterwise practices.

These initiatives are driving real behavior change: 74% of surveyed participants committed to adapting their home landscapes to local conditions to conserve water. This commitment shows how Master Gardener education translates into meaningful community action, supporting long-term water sustainability for people, agriculture, and the environment.

Youth Outreach

A local Girl Scout troop working on their Gardening Badge recently toured the West Valley Food Garden. They discussed how to design a garden, learned about seeds and how to read a seed packet, did the CD case seed project and transplanted tomatoes to take home. (Photos by *Kelly K*)



Last Sunday of the month means Youth Table at the Farmer's Market. Interns *Don Mayo* and *Mikki Boughton* worked with veteran *Patty Stuphen-Fendall*, teaching the kids about butterflies.

Classes in the Garden

The Yakima Area Arboretum's Education Director, Garrett Brendan, talked at the Ahtanum Park Garden about trees and shrubs that grow well in the Yakima area. MGs found it very interesting and thought the speaker was very knowledgeable.



MG **John Strong** spoke on Drip Irrigation to a rapt crowd at the Ahtanum Park Garden. People thought it was a great class and appreciated the thoroughness in covering the drip irrigation system, including knowing soil type, different components of a drip system, and the use of automatic timers.

MG **Gini Obert** addressed the challenges of being a beginning vegetable grower. The attentive attendees at the Heirloom Garden appreciated her insight. Master Gardeners liked how Gini talked about having fun in the garden, that mistakes will be made, but a gardener learns from them.



Floribunda: Clutter Control by Carol Barany

After weeks of planting, pruning, mowing, and weeding, the garden still doesn't look really pulled together. Or maybe you have a storage shed ready to audition for the "Hoarders" reality TV show.

Can you blame it on a bad case of "clutter?"

In 2011, Marie Kondo mapped out six steps for dealing with excess in "The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up." Offering gentle encouragements, she guided readers to purge their homes of anything that didn't "spark joy." It's more than clearing the shed. The KonMarie method challenges the "more is better" attitude. That's when we "accumulate things for the sake of accumulating them, and our sense of joy comes from having the newest, coolest, and most stuff, rather than how useful that stuff is, or how it fits into the bigger picture of how we'd like to feel in our day-to-day lives."

While millions across the globe read the book, her 2019 Netflix series, "Tidying Up with Marie Kondo", may have reached an even greater audience. It aired just when we needed her most. Americans, with suddenly so much time on their hands, were tidying up like never before.

While Kondo never specifically addresses outdoor spaces, organizing your garden is not that different from organizing your cupboards and your closets. Tidy gardens don't have to look like the manicured extravaganzas of British manor houses. Often, simplifying a design with a few beautiful focal features is all it takes. For example, melding small garden beds located helter skelter into one yields greater visual impact and less work. When plants that were crammed in haphazardly are moved into complementary groups, the garden becomes more unified and instantly more attractive.

Most of us started out with a plan, but plants have minds of their own. Take the rose that is always a hot mess of mildew and aphids, or the shrubs that have to be pruned constantly to maintain a view. Eliminating them can leave more time to enjoy and care for the plants you really love. When I cleared a work table of piles of mismatched plastic pots that "might come in handy someday", I had enough room this spring to jump-start more dahlia tubers and sow seeds for cut flowers, two of my real pleasures.

Tidying revealed that I owned eight almost identical rakes and over 200 gardening books and catalogs. Keeping only the well-used favorites and giving the others away spread the joy of gardening to grateful recipients.

Before moving through the six steps, Kondo asks tidiers to acknowledge the things they already have that spark joy, or at least make their lives easier. Her philosophy is not about acquiring more, but for being grateful for what we have. For example, I wish it was made of bluestone, but my broken concrete walkway allows my wheelbarrow and me easy access to the compost pile. It's better than the dirt pathway I had before. While it's not actually sparking joy, I'm glad I have it.

Get the idea? Then it's time to proceed:

1. Commit to the idea of tidying up

Admit that you have a problem with clutter, and set aside a big enough block of time to make the necessary changes. According to Kondo, people who tidy a little at a time will never finish.

2. Image your ideal garden

Begin by asking yourself what you want, and what's keeping you from achieving it. Empty nesters may want a larger area to relax or entertain, and may have to give up some garden space to make it happen. Young families may want a garden that's safe for children to explore, and choose "stepable" plants that can withstand foot traffic and over-thrown Frisbies. After all, gardens will always be evolving works-in-progress. Our personal tastes rarely stay the same, and our needs change as we age. New plants come and go. If your old choices no longer spark joy, it's time to let them go. According to Kondo, "To truly cherish the things that are important, you must first discard those that have outlived their purpose."

3. Discard first

Kondo discovered that folks who never seem to finish tidying attempt to store everything without getting rid of anything. Walk through your garden and storage areas and lay your hands on every plant, pot, and ceramic frog. Ask yourself honestly, "Does this spark of joy for me?" If not, it should be discarded or compos-

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(Floribunda, continued)

ed, or given to someone who will make use of it.

Gardeners are well-known for their heroic efforts to keep plants alive. Sometimes, the best thing a gardener can do is let a plant die, if a greater garden results. If a plant doesn't look or behave like it should (regardless of how expensive it was), get rid of it. Letting go of a mistake is liberating. Thank the plant for teaching you something about what you really want from your garden, and send it on its way without feeling guilty.

4. Tidy by category, not by location

It won't do much good organizing the pots in the garage only to find more pots stored in the basement next week, making it necessary to start all over again. Gather everything in the one category you're working on into a single pile. Decide what to keep, and what needs to go. Your goal is to discard rather than store. If you organize all your gardening books into categories, and put those you "might need some day" in a tote stashed in the basement, you're not tidying. You're just redistributing clutter. Stacks of boxes labeled "Habitat for Humanity" or "Goodwill" are another form of clutter. You must clear out what you've already decluttered before you can move on.

5. Follow the correct order

Work on one category at a time. Suggestions are gar-

dening tools, books and catalogs, pots, chemicals, seeds, ornaments, and plants. Begin with the category that's easiest for you, and work up to the most difficult. Often that's anything with sentimental value.

6. Ask yourself, "Does it spark joy?"

This is the essence of the KonMari Method. You're not choosing what to discard, but what to keep. We often hang on to items out of a sense of sentimental duty. You may feel guilty digging out a daylily a good friend gave you for your birthday ten years ago, but if you always hated the color, where's the joy? It's OK to send the plant on its way. Remember, you are not discarding your friendship.

Clutter happens. I fell in love with tender succulents a few years ago. I find rosettes of plump, water reservoir leaves in every shade of green, red, maroon, pink, blue, grey, and lavender simply irresistible. Steadily, my collection has grown to fill 59 pots this year. Watering and fertilizing them through the spring and summer, and then hauling them indoors in late October for the winter, is starting to feel more like work than fun. It's too soon to say, but all these plants could be morphing from joy sparkers into joy suckers.

By eliminating anything that doesn't spark joy, I can make my gardening life more peaceful and relaxing. Who doesn't want that?

I'll keep you posted....

Program Requirement Reminder

Interns/Trainees:

- * **GreenSchool** online quizzes/final exam (80% average on all quizzes, 80% on final)
- * **Labs:** Attend 5 of 6 in-person labs (make-up classes arranged through Program Coordinator)
- * **5 -10 minute presentation on a Plant Clinic question**
- * **40 hours of Volunteer work with the following breakdown:**
 - **Answer/Plant Clinic:** 15 hours plus Clinic Question answered
 - **Greenhouse:** 10 hours
 - **Demonstration Gardens:** 10 hours (at least one hour in each of 3 gardens)
 - **Youth Team:** 5 hours
- * **Record all Volunteer time in online tracking system: GivePulse**

Certified/Veterans:

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

Emeritus:

- * **Continuing Education:** 5 hours
- * **Volunteer Hours:** 1 hour

Focus on Continuing Education

Our Own Demonstration Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter	Location
July 11th	From Seed to Sensational: Easy Annuals You Can Start Yourself for Summer and Fall Bouquets	MG Carol Barany	Ahtanum Park Garden
July 18th	Knot Tying: How to Tie up Veggies Without Strangling Them	MG Darrell Monroe	Heirloom Garden
July 25th	Adopt a Monarch + Best Native Plants for Beneficial Insects and Pollinators	Dr. David James, WSU Associate Professor, Entomology	Ahtanum Park Garden
Aug 1st	Winter Tomatoes	MG Phyllis Pugnetti	Heirloom Garden
Aug 8th	Attracting Birds, Pollinators and Creatures to Your Native Garden	Mikki Boughton, Heritage Garden Coordinator	Ahtanum Park Garden
Sept 5th	Pollinators	MG Don Flyckt	Heirloom Garden
Oct 3rd	Fall Tool Maintenance	MG Rick Russell	Heirloom Garden

Looking for Continuing Education?

Local Resources:

- * **Arboretum Classes**
- * Upcoming **Demonstration Garden classes**: July 11th (Ahtanum Park); July 18th (Heirloom Garden) & July 25th (Ahtanum Park)

Online Resources:

- * **Evergreen Thumb Podcast** (WSU Master Gardeners)
- * **WSU Extension Master Gardeners Virtual AEC** (look for the next session coming fall 2027)
- * **Oregon State University** (Free webinars the 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon) Click [here](#).
- * **Oregon State University MG Short Course Series** (some free, most have a low cost). Click [here](#).
- * **From Roots to Results: Exploring the Cooperative Extensions Role and Impact**. Click [here](#)
- * **WSU Program Priority Videos and Literature**, "Discover What You Can Do about (Program Priority)":

Happy Birthday!!

7/4 Janet Roberts

7/23 Barbara Schmitt

7/8 Patty Dion

7/28 Claudia Steen

7/12 Jan Guthrie

7/28 Debbie Sundlee

7/18 Beatrice Reiss

GivePulse 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>

Click on the link, then bookmark it on your computer, tablet, or phone. Do NOT use the app. Too many glitches.

- ◆ This month, we welcome **Kim Foster** as an additional verifier of our impacts. Michelle has moved to the Tri-Cities and, of course, Patty retired. Before long, **PC Audrey** will be alongside us.
- ◆ It has been recommended by State leaders in GivePulse that when there are errors in entered impacts, verifiers should “dispute” the impacts. It is my understanding that the message sent to the member is rather succinct and not very friendly. Because some of the impacts with errors tend to sit in the system for quite some time, I am choosing to send a friendly notice to said member before the impact is disputed. After a week has passed with no edit being made, the impact will be disputed. This clears space in the verifiers’ systems so that the errant impacts aren’t clogging the pages.

Reflections of the month:

“such a great class....he knows his stuff,” entered under Continuing Education/
Demo Garden, WVFG & Heirloom Garden classes

“Nice working with Reggie and doing something other than pulling weeds!”
entered under Demonstration Gardens/Work at Heirloom Garden

Total number of impacts entered in June: **191**

Total number of hours volunteered in June: **318.31**

Number of volunteers: **42**



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

Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

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

Yakima County MG Garden Locations

Ahtanum Park Garden:

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:

1020 Fort Road, Toppenish

Master Gardener Venue Work Seasons

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Enrichment Classes												
Greenschool												
Classes in the Gardens												
Answer/Plant Clinic												
Demonstration Gardens												
Ahtanum Park Garden												
Heirloom												
Kamiakin												
WVFG												
Greenhouse												
Annuals												
Arts												
Hanging Baskets												
Herbs												
Perennials												
Vegetables												

Yakima County MG Leaders

Answer/Plant Clinic: Andrea Altmayer/Kim Foster/Kathy Paulson

Greenhouse: Camille Smith/Kelli Barton

Annuals: Lorie Harrison/Camille Smith

Perennials: Carol Barany/Melody Westmoreland

Herbs: Diana Pieti/Diane Berthon

Hanging Baskets: Mary Hewitt/Shelly Oshie

Vegetables: Don Flyckt/Beatrice Reiss /Kelly Klingman

Art: Jenny Mansfield/Debbie Sundlee

Plant Sale: Laura Willet, Reggie Sanderson

Demonstration Gardens:

Ahtanum: Sue Schauer/Kelli Barton

Classes: Annette Olson/Sue Schauer

Heirloom Garden: Sally Mayo/Reggie Sanderson/Sarah Judd

West Valley: Camille Smith/Kelli Barton/John Strong

Youth Program: Kelly Klingman/Jennifer Harris

Writer's Guild/Speaker's Bureau: Carol Barany/Melody Westmoreland/Debra Kroon

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

Social Media: Kelly Klingman

Garden Tour: Jenny Mansfield/Lucy Stevens/ Barbara Schmitt

Facilities: Reggie Sanderson/Mary Kearney

Advisory Board: Debra Kroon/John Strong/Melody Westmoreland/Barbara Schmitt

Mentor Team: Debra Kroon/Melody Westmoreland/Julie Hunziker

Remembering Dr. Peter H. Raven

*Thank you to **Carol Barany** for sharing this article from the Missouri Botanical Garden publication. Dr. Raven was the keynote speaker at the Advanced Education Conference held in Yakima in 2017.*

Dr. Peter Hamilton Raven, a botanist of global stature who transformed the Missouri Botanical Garden into one of the world's leading centers for botany and became one of the most influential voices for biodiversity and conservation, passed away on April 25, 2026. He was 89 years old.

For nearly four decades, Dr. Raven served as President and Director of the Garden while also holding the George Engelmann Professorship of Botany at Washington University in St. Louis. When he assumed leadership of the Garden in 1971 at age 35, the institution was modest in scope. By the time he retired in 2010, he had transformed the organization into a global hub for research, education, horticultural display, and sustainability, with far-reaching scientific partnerships and conservation programs.

Dr. Raven's vast and varied list of accomplishments at the Garden includes opening the Japanese Garden (Seiwa-en), the Margaret Grigg Nanjing Friendship Garden, the William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening, and the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden. He tripled the size of the Garden's herbarium, helping make it one of the largest botanical collections in the world, and greatly expanded its library, now among the world's most comprehensive botanical libraries and since named in his honor. Dr. Raven actively campaigned to have the Garden added to the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District, a property tax-supported district in St. Louis established in 1971 to fund and support major cultural institutions. Dr. Raven negotiated and arranged for the creation of the Botanical Garden Subdistrict; in 1983 voters approved an expansion of the ZMD, allowing the Garden to join as a new subdistrict. Today, the ZMD provides a quarter of the Garden's annual operating budget.

Dr. Raven's many global scientific contributions in this role include founding the Garden's William L. Brown Center and the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development, as well as launching numerous research projects, conservation programs, and partnerships across North America and in China, Madagascar, Peru, Bolivia, and Tanzania. The staff had grown from 150 at the start of his tenure to nearly 500 by the time of his retirement. This expanded team, which had begun with just a handful of scientists, included close to 50 PhD-level research scientists undertaking pioneering work on the St. Louis campus and around the world.

"Peter Raven didn't simply lead the Garden; he redefined what it could be," said June McAllister Fowler, chair of the Garden's Board of Trustees. "His vision elevated it to a world-class institution while deepening its roots in St. Louis.



He believed the Garden should serve its community as much as the scientific world, and that legacy is visible across our city today."

During his two decades of retirement as President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus, Dr. Raven remained an energetic ambassador for the Garden's mission, traveling widely to lecture and advocate for the protection of plant life and the ecosystems on which humanity depends. In addition to his named professorship at Washington University, he also served as an adjunct professor at Saint Louis University and the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

"Peter combined intellectual brilliance with a profound sense of purpose," said Dr. Lúcia Lohmann, President and Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden. "He built not only a world-class scientific institution, but a global community committed to understanding and protecting the diversity of life on earth. He supported scientists from all over the world, including myself, and inspired generations to pursue knowledge in service of the planet."

Outside the Garden walls, Dr. Raven worked to make St. Louis a plant science hub and build relationships with global partners. Under his leadership, the Missouri Botanical Garden became a founding member of the Center for Plant Conservation, a network of botanical gardens dedicated to conserving U.S. native plants. Dr. Raven was also a cofounder of the Danforth Center for Plant Science with Bill Danforth and Virginia Weldon, and he played a key role in the success of Gateway Greening, now known as Seed St. Louis, which helped to establish more than 200 community gardens in urban St. Louis. He was also instrumental in establishing a sister-city relationship with Nanjing, China, the first of its kind between the United States and China.

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(Dr. Raven, continued from previous page)

In 1985, Dr. Raven received the St. Louis Award in recognition of his work in environmental conservation and his contributions to the St. Louis community. In subsequent years, he was named St. Louis Man of the Year (1989), added to the St. Louis Walk of Fame (1995), and in 2002 was appointed Chair of the Parks and Open Space Task Force of the St. Louis 2004 Initiative.

Dr. Raven's influence extended well beyond St. Louis. He contributed 35 years of leadership as co-editor to the monumental Flora of China project, reflecting his lifelong commitment to international collaboration in botanical science. Over the course of his scientific career, he helped shape the modern understanding of plant evolution and coevolution, and trained generations of scientists who now lead institutions around the world. An excellent network builder, Dr. Raven promoted scientific collaboration, connecting people with similar interests to one another to great synergistic effect.

"Peter was among the rare scientists who understood the importance of plant diversity science, but who also marveled at the vast sweep of life's history," said Sir Peter Crane, president of the Oak Spring Garden Foundation and former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. "He brought those perspectives together to make an unanswerable case for the conservation of biodiversity."

In 1985, Dr. Raven was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship—often called a "genius grant"—in recognition of his originality and leadership in science and conservation. In 2000, he received the National Medal of Science from President Bill Clinton, the nation's highest honor for scientific achievement. Dr. Raven was also awarded the National Friendship Medal from the Premier of China, the highest award offered to foreigners. He served on the Council of the National Academy of Sciences from 1983 to 1986 and was Home Secretary of the Academy from 1987 to 1999. He was also a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and 25 other Academies of Science around the globe. His many international honors included the International Prize for Biology from Japan, 22 Honorary Doctor of Science Degrees, and innumerable Achievement and Distinguished Service Awards and Medals.

A public advocate as well as a scientist, Dr. Raven was named a "Hero for the Planet" by Time magazine in 1999. Throughout his career, he warned of the accelerating loss of biodiversity driven by population growth, consumption, and environmental degradation, urging international cooperation to address what he saw as one of the defining challenges of the modern era.

"Peter Raven understood earlier than most that biodiversity loss is not an abstract problem, but a direct threat to human well-being and all life on Earth," said Cristián

Samper, managing director and leader for nature solutions at the Bezos Earth Fund and former president of the Wildlife Conservation Society. "He was a strong advocate for science and conservation, and a mentor to generations of botanists and policymakers around the world."

Dr. Raven served on numerous scientific boards and advisory bodies, including President Clinton's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology from 1994 to 2001 and as a trustee of the National Geographic Society. He was a life member of the Pontifical Academy of Science and raised awareness of the perils for biodiversity through his many lectures at the Vatican. A prolific author, he co-wrote *Biology of Plants*, a widely used textbook now in multiple editions, and *Environment*, another leading text in the field. In 2021, the Missouri Botanical Garden Press published his autobiography, *Driven by Nature: A Personal Journey from Shanghai to Botany and Global Sustainability*.

Peter Hamilton Raven was born in Shanghai in 1936 to Walter and Isabelle Breen Raven. He earned his doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1960 after undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Early in his career, he conducted fieldwork in the highlands of Chiapas, studying folk taxonomy—an experience that deepened his appreciation for the relationship between people and plants and helped shape his lifelong commitment to conservation. Before coming to the Garden, Dr. Raven served for nearly a decade as a professor at Stanford University along with his favorite cohort, Paul Ehrlich.

Dr. Raven is survived by his wife, Dr. Patricia Duncan Raven; four children, Alice Raven (Sam Stuhlman), Liz Raven McQuinn (Daryl McQuinn), Francis Raven (Carolyn Kousky), and Kate Raven (Katrina Schaffer); and the grandchildren, Noah, Nate, Louisa, and Rosvita. A celebration of his life will take place at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Donations in memory of Dr. Raven may be made to the Garden's Dr. Peter H. Raven Memorial Fund [securely online](#) or by calling 314-577-0291. Condolence messages or memories of Dr. Raven may be [shared online](#).

Guiding Principles

Act Respectfully

Lead Supportively

Adaptability

Work Together

Always Learning

Emphasize Quality

Communicate Effectively

Be Honest

Take Responsibility



July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4 APG Garden 8-11	2 Heirloom Garden 8-11 WVFG 8-11	3 Answer Clinic Closed	4 Independence Day
5 Farmer's Market 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	6 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	7	8 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4 APG Garden 8-11	9 Heirloom Garden 8-11 WVFG 8-11	10 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	11 Garden Class: Seeding Annuals 10 am Ahtanum
12 Farmer's Market 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	13 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	14	15 Answer Clinic APG Garden Foundation/ Program Mtg @ 10:30 Red Barn	16 Heirloom Garden 8-11 WVFG 8-11	17 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	18 Garden Class: Knot Tying 10 am Heirloom
19 Farmer's Market 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	20 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	21	22 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4 APG Garden 8-11	23 Heirloom Garden 8-11 WVFG 8-11 Clinic Mtg @ Ext 1:30-3	24 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	25 Garden Class: Native Plants/ Pollinators 10 am Ahtanum
26 Farmer's Market/ Youth Team 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	27 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	28	29 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4 APG Garden 8-11	30	31 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	



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