



Master Gardener Newsletter



Master Gardener Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

MAY 2022
304 COWLITZ WAY,
KELSO, WA 98626

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN

Gary Fredricks

WSU Extension Office
Phone: 360-577-3014
Gary Fredricks, WSU
Cowlitz County
Extension Director,
360-577-3014 Extension 3
E-mail: garyf@wsu.edu
Kacee Cohen
Administrative Secretary
360-577-3014 Extension 0

WSU Gardening Websites
[mastergardener.wsu.edu/](http://mastergardener.wsu.edu)
gardening.wsu.edu
cowlitz.wsu.edu

HortSense Fact Sheets
hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/

PestSense Fact Sheets
pestsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/

Pest Leaflet Series
puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/pls/

WSU Educational Materials
<http://pubs.wsu.edu>

WSU Master Gardener
www.cowlitzcomg.com/

Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact the office at least two weeks prior to the event. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

"Life has no limitations, except the ones we make." ~ Les Brown

If you have a pet that isn't feeling well, everyone you ask has an opinion on what is wrong and how to cure it. They have a second cousin whose great aunt's distant nephew had the same thing happen to their cat ten years ago. "If you feed it nothing but castor oil for five days and wave it overhead every morning for a week, it will be fine" (The cat left on the second day and was never seen again.) People are always happy to share their ideas, but it can be hard to know what information is accurate and what is useless. Always beware when someone starts the sentence with "I think that ..."

In the course of trying to figure out what information is reliable, people know that when it comes to getting help, WSU Master Gardeners provides trustworthy fact proven information. They may not like what they hear, and they always have the option of not using it, but the legitimacy is without question. As trained MG volunteers, you are looked upon as experts in our community. That can be frightening at times. Some of you may not feel like an expert. You don't think you know enough about plants, let alone everything. You don't feel you measure up, so you shy away from volunteering opportunities. You are missing the best part of the program.

You don't have to know it all. You know much more than you think, and you are not expected to know it all. When you get a question that you don't know, let the person know that you are not sure and need more time to research it. Feel free to take a name and phone number to get back to them. If they are pressing you for an answer, remember that you don't have to give them one immediately. Their emergency is not your emergency. The correct answer is always better than giving a quick response that is inaccurate.

So you take down information to research it out and still don't know the answer. What do you do now? That is the true strength of the MG organization. Contact the other volunteers for their assistance (E-mail list) or an MG or me a call. This is a great organization that supports each other. Never feel like you have to be on your own or will be thought less of for not knowing. We are all here to support one another. Don't let self-imposed limitations stop you from helping out. Volunteering is part of the process of learning and growing.

Announcements

Plant and Insect Clinic is fielding In-clinic visits, calls, and emails. In office April-Oct: MWF, Nov-March: Wed. only, 10-noon. 360-577-3014 Ext. 1

All of our workshops-with slides, handouts, and videos: cowlitzcomg.com/workshops-videos

In this issue

If you enjoy the MG articles below, PLEASE LET THE AUTHOR KNOW!

- ◆ [Reflections from the Garden](#) Gary Fredricks
- ◆ [Goodbye and good luck, Carlee!](#)
- ◆ [Plant Sale Madness!](#)
- ◆ [Reflections on my Plant Sale experience](#)— Nancy Andrews
- ◆ [Adventures on the Farm—the first MG Greenhouse](#)—Sara Clark
- ◆ [European Chafer—an uninvited guest](#)—Anne Wolff
- ◆ [Greenhouse Grounds Spruce-up](#)
- ◆ [Earth Day Celebration at Lake Sacajewea](#)
- ◆ [Join the Farmers Market Team](#)—Roxanne Nakamura
- ◆ [No greenhouse? No excuse!](#)—Jerry Winchell

Log your Volunteer Hours



wsu.givepulse.com/group/453100-WSU-Cowlitz-County-Master-Gardeners

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- Article Opportunity -

If you specialize in a specific type of gardening, then why not share your knowledge by writing a short article for the newsletter? It's a great way to contribute, and help inspire fellow gardeners. Not to mention that the time spent writing can be turned in as volunteer hours!

If you have an article you'd like to share, please email them to: Alice Slusher, alslush@gmail.com
Articles for June issue due June 20, 2022

Meetings & Event

Foundation Meeting

Next Foundation meeting:
June 14, 2022



**MASTER
GARDENER
CALENDAR**

Upcoming Workshops (12 pm on Zoom unless otherwise noted)

cowlitzcomg.com/public-events

June 4	Pruning Shrubs (10 am)	Michele Thomas
June 7	Kids--hanging baskets in DG (6 pm)	Carolyn Winchell
June 7	Summer Pruning for Fruit Trees	Art Fuller
June 14	Drip irrigation	Jerry Winchell
June 21	Ask the Master Gardener--round table discussion	Alice Slusher facilitator
June 28	Tips for easier gardening	Dale Wheeler

Master Gardener Directory

On members' page of website

GOOD LUCK, CARLEE!



Carlee Mickelson, our Extension office Administrative Assistant, is moving with her family to Alaska. This summer. Carlee has been a godsend to all of us—she's always been willing to work with us, going out of her way to be helpful and offering really good solutions to problems. Because Carlee likes to keep busy, she has organized everything in the office—it's easy to find anything we need. Her bright, sunny, friendly personality has made it a joy to work with her. Carlee, we're going to miss you!

Our new administrative assistant is Kacee Cohen. Welcome, Kacee!

AND NOW...A WORD TO OUR SPONSORS...

<https://ultimate-mushroom.com/poisonous/413-peziza-vesiculosa.html>

Thank You Sponsors!

For your support

Tsugawa Nursery

Kellogg Supply

Wilco

Fred Meyer

You helped to make our Plant Sale a
HUGE SUCCESS!



PLANT SALE DAYS

So many memories! Work, fun, new friendships!

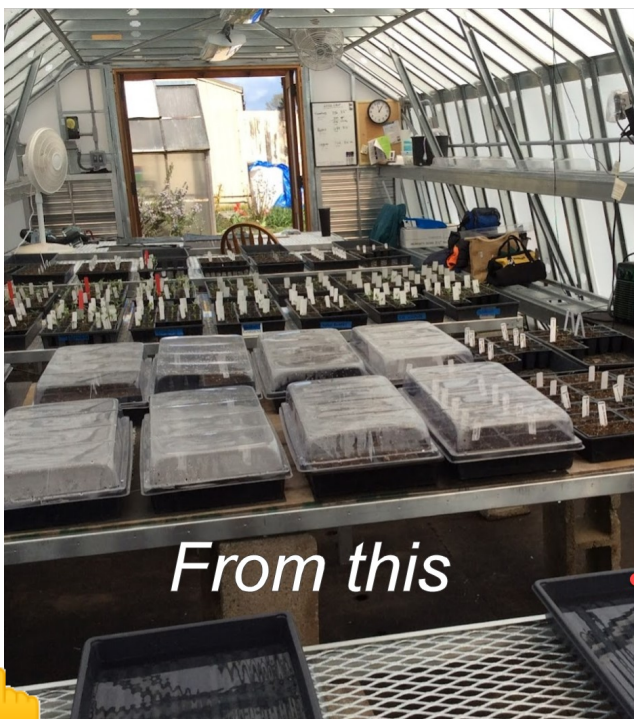
See many of the photos of Plant Sale Week from start to finish here.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/EumrSA6nk8CKS2Cc6>



And our greenhouse growing season in pictures—from start to finish!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/XCo4PFYqSqfzMeAt7>



From this



To this!



PLANT SALE

WE DID IT! And we couldn't have done it without ALL OF US!

From Jerry Winchell MGFCC President

Some of you may have seen flashes of light in the sky and rumblings in the ground lately. Likely that was from our Master Gardeners, Trainees, family and friends moving heaven and earth to make this year's Plant Sale an amazing success.

Because of all of you who helped in a myriad of ways:

We have brought in \$16,607.30 for our Master Gardener foundation.

We sold over 4,000 plants and made possible the best plant sale ever by \$7,383 (45% increase over last year)! We made new friends and had a blast. We learned so much.

Good job! You are awesome! (Thanks)

From Jane Yahrmarkt, Plant Sale Chair

THANK YOU...

From the bottom of my heart "To-Ma-Toes"! Wow, what an adventure. Our sale was a record breaker thanks to our extraordinary 78 volunteers who made it happen.

I'm really at a loss for words right now trying to express my gratitude to you all. At the end of it, I just hope and wish, we as a group of Cowlitz County Master Gardeners, came away with new friendships, lots of laughs and a great sense of satisfaction with a job well done. Good job, my friends.

This [short video](#) was taken the night before the plant sale. You will be amazed!



All the planning, planting, growing, tending, watering, building, communicating, advertising, feeding, moving, setting up, inspecting, cart gathering, sign making, meeting, greeting and educating, ticketing, collecting, counting, and taking down. And laughing and enjoying each other's company.

It took ALL of us! Thanks to EVERYONE who helped to make this the most successful plant sale ever! **75% of our Master Gardener membership took part in some way in making this plant sale a success**, and that doesn't even count the help that our fabulous families offered! In all 78 amazing people pulled this event together.

We are indeed the wind beneath the wings of the WSU Cowlitz County Master Gardeners' Educational Outreach mission!



ONE MG'S LOOK AT THE PLANT SALE EXPERIENCE

Nancy Andrews

As a 2020 MG "Grad," this was my first in-person plant sale and the first time I "officially" grew plants for the sale. Over 350 plants. And, as a beginning gardener, only the 2nd time in my life I started plants from seed. I was exhausted from caring for plants day in and day out. But what an accomplishment!

At the plant sale, I volunteered to write tickets, which meant tallying items by price so that the cashiers knew how much each customer needed to pay. I cannot adequately express the wonderful feeling I experienced when someone had *my* lettuce or *my* tomatoes or *my* peppers or borage or basil or arugula or flowers in their cart! Wow, I grew it and they bought it. I grew FOOD and flowers for people! And they wanted to buy it! I had fun telling them I grew it and talking about it. I also enjoyed talking with people about other plants I was familiar with from last year.

And then there were people who needed growing information. One couple really stands out in my mind -- they purchased grape starts and knew nothing about growing them. I was so excited about telling them about our website that has a wealth of info on growing grapes, and I also told them about our videos and workshops. There were

people that had no idea what Master Gardeners was about, and it was fun to see their expressions when I told them that that is what Master Gardeners is all about! Teaching people all about plants and how to grow and care for them successfully, and that the plant sale supports this effort. I think that might have added new meaning to their purchases.

Had it not been for prior plant sales and other people becoming Master Gardeners, this retired computer gal (me) might not be involved in gardening at all, because I would have resorted to the internet, books and videos to learn and probably would have given up. I certainly would not have had the experience of growing the plants and sharing knowledge with others who I hope will experience the joy of growing beautiful veggies, houseplants, fruits, trees, etc. What an incredibly satisfying experience!

But next year I think I need to grow fewer plants...



ADVENTURES ON THE FARM

Sara Clark— The very first Master Gardener Greenhouse: What a miracle!

“This is Exceedingly Hot and Boring,” I thought to myself.

I was at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds, during the fair time, serving my time as a Master Gardener. My job? Sitting on a deserted island in a sea of asphalt. My only companions were an 8 x 10 greenhouse, a plastic jug with a slot in the lid, and an immense roll of raffle tickets.

those that did were more interested in the water fountain than in braving the hot asphalt to talk to me about buying raffle tickets.

This greenhouse was supposed to be a great fundraiser. It had a pentagon shape, a working glass screen door at one end, and a window at the other. All the wood



Back in the late 1990's, the fairgrounds had not yet been remodelled into the Expo Center. At that time, the asphalt between the floral and ag buildings and the WWII-era exposition hall had a series of oval islands of grass, similar to the grass islands down the middle of Broadway in downtown Longview. Upon one of these islands, the Master Gardeners had placed a hand-made greenhouse, to be raffled off to the eager fair-goers. One MG per 4-hour-shift was condemned to sit next to the greenhouse, and sell raffle tickets for \$1 each. The only flaw in this plan was that there were no crowds of raffle ticket buyers. Not many folks came out the north side of the exposition hall, and

framing was painted white, and the two potting benches were made of unpainted cedar. The screen door had a window that could be lowered for ventilation and the window at the other end could be opened, too. But the most amazing part was the industrial fan that could be turned on to ventilate the house, ensuring that plants would not cook, no matter how hot it got. This beautiful work of the Master Gardener craftsmen cost \$1350 to build. Surely we could sell at least a couple thousand tickets at only \$1 each, and make some serious funds for our MG group?

Hour upon hour went by. It was the last day of the



ADVENTURES ON THE FARM

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fair, and I was the last person selling tickets that day. Some tickets had been purchased, but the raffle container was only about 1/3 full. Suddenly, I had a thought. Maybe I should buy some tickets for this raffle? My husband and I did not have a lot of money, since we had just bought our first house. As I thought about this somewhat crazy idea, I decided to ask God what he thought of our buying \$50 worth of tickets. It seemed to me like God was on board with this plan, which surprised me. Next, I needed to ask my husband.

I didn't have a cell phone in those days, but there was a pay phone on the side of the expo building. I gave my husband at home a call. He had been to the fair earlier that day with our two kids, and knew all about the greenhouse, including how poorly the sales had been going.

"This may sound crazy, but I am thinking we should buy some raffle tickets for this greenhouse I have been babysitting all day. What do you think?" I asked him. "You know, I have been thinking the same thing, and I think you should buy some tickets," he replied. "I think you should buy \$50 worth."

Talk about a sign! So I wrote a check, and then spent the next hour writing my name and number on each of those tickets. My shift finally ended, and I handed over the money and tickets to the raffle chairperson, and went home to have a dinner date with my husband.

Later that night, my husband and I returned home

to pay the babysitter and send her home. As the babysitter was going out the door, I asked her if, by any chance, someone had called the house to, you know, tell us we had won a greenhouse? I kind of laughed at the absurd idea that we had indeed won as I said it.

"Oh, yes," she said. "The number and message are by the phone."

I stood there with my mouth hanging open. Holy cow! We had won! What a miracle!

The greenhouse ended up costing a bit more than \$50 in the end. Because it was already assembled, and could not be taken apart, we had to rent a huge trailer. First, we had to dismantle part of our fence. Then we had to get a team of about 12 people to go to the fairgrounds, lift it onto the trailer, and then drive to our house to lift it off and squeeze it through the side fence into our yard. We had a cinder block foundation prepared for it to rest on.

Eventually, we dug a trench and put a water line and electricity into it, and then we had to replace the corrugated plastic and put sun-resistant plastic on the outside. However, in spite of the fact that it cost a bit more than the original \$50, it has been a very low cost greenhouse, and it has served us faithfully for almost 25 years now, including growing plants for our plant sale this year. And, as far as I know, it was the very first greenhouse that our Master Gardeners of Cowlitz County ever built.



WATCH OUT! AN UNINVITED GUEST...

May be coming to a yard near you—by Anne Wolff

I love working in the Plant and Insect Clinic — you never know what is going to come through the door. Recently, Barb LaChine walked into the clinic with a black plastic baggie, holding a "big creature" she'd found while working in her garden. Barb didn't know if it came in with a plant or soil she purchased, but she did say it was BIG. The excitement built.

We unwrapped it and it was big and creepy. Alice knew immediately what it was — she was at her computer and confirmed it within seconds: A European Chafer larva (*Rhizotrogus majalis*.)

"Invasive," I said and checked my Washington Invasive Species App — there it was! Gary Hinderman measured and photographed, Alice sent the information to Jenny Glass at the WSU plant and insect clinic in Puyallup, and I submitted a report to the Invasive Species Council.

What exactly is a European Chafer and why should we care?

The European chafer is a light brown to brick-colored beetle with an oval, June-beetle shape, about 1/2 inch. Our chafer specimen was in the larval (grub) phase, about 1 1/2 inches. Damage occurs at this stage as the larva feeds on cereal plants like turf grass, wheat, and the fine roots of broadleaf plants and conifers. Additional and costly damage to lawns can occur when secondary pests such as raccoons and skunks peel back turf looking for grubs.

The WSU fact sheet states this pest is confined to south-



Figure 2. Adult European chafer.



Figure 3. Late larval instar of European chafer grub.

west British Columbia. Hopefully finding a chafer in Washington state is an outlier event. If the chafer spreads into Washington, pesticide use may increase — causing additional run-off in urban areas. A better approach to control is the use of parasitic nematodes to reduce grub populations. Heavy irrigation during the egg state can also be used for control; however, it is not practical where water is expensive or scarce.

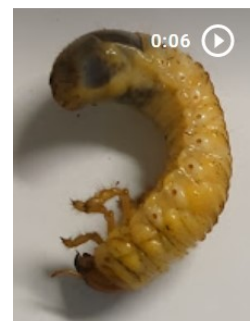
Our best approach is vigilance: If you find a beetle or grub, put it in a baggie, and please bring it to the extension office. Even if you're *sure* what it is, we can confirm what it is and report it — and it is very important to report it!

Come in and meet our creature — we still have Barb's chafer in the fridge, waiting for visitors. Maybe you can help us think of a name ;) More resources (and photo credits): <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2070/2013/12/European-Chafer.pdf>



Figure 6. Lawn showing damage caused by European chafer grubs feeding. The turf plants are gone and moss has invaded the area.

Check out our 6 second video:

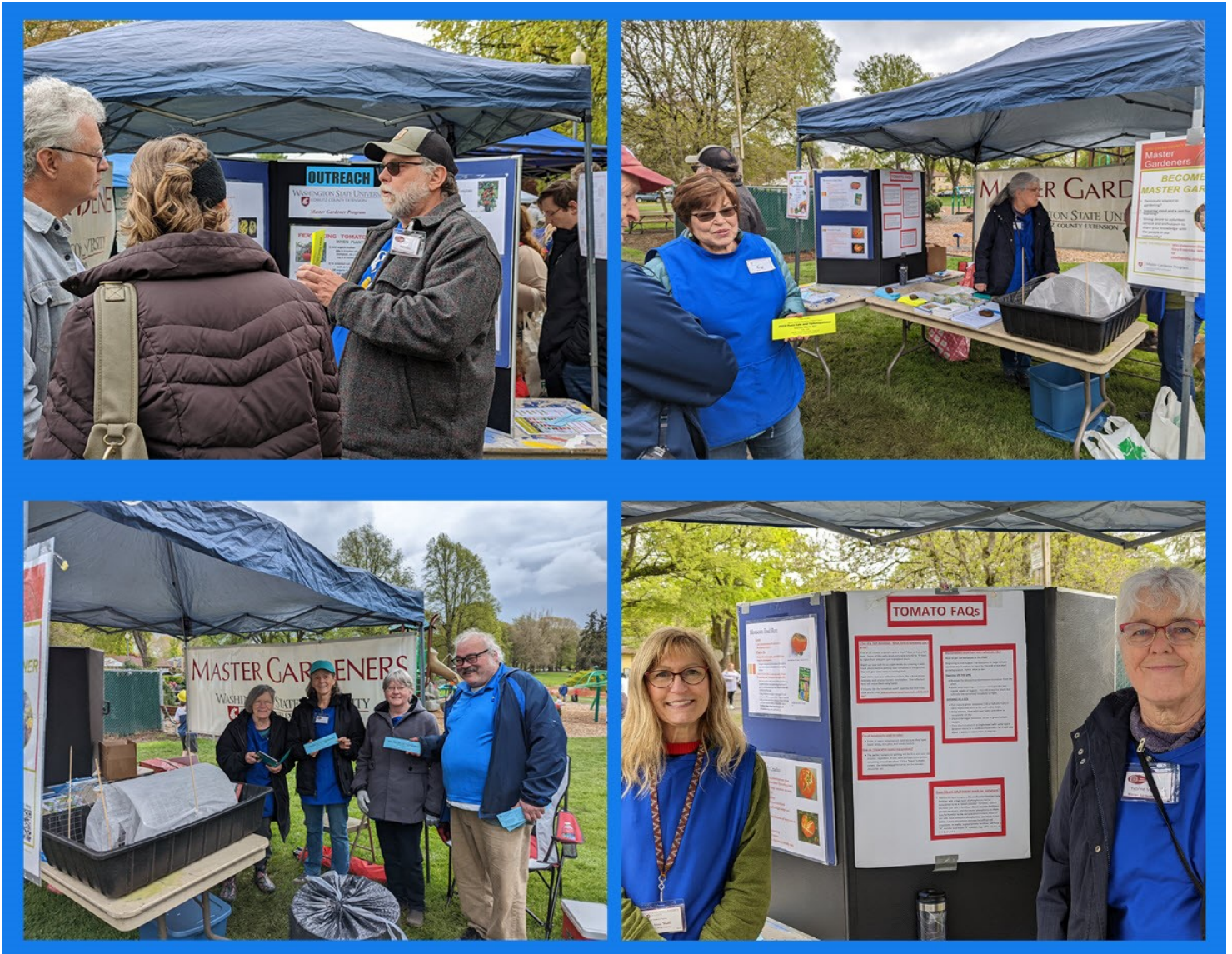


EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 2022

At Lake Sacajawea-Saturday, April 30

A special thanks to Anne Wolff, Bart Andrews, Kris McElroy-Weber, Margaret Nunnelley, Patricia Bosh, Patti Borgaard, Robert Layes, and Yvonne Martineau for spending part of their weekend getting the word out about our upcoming Plant Sale and the Master Gardener program. These go-getters were out there talking to everyone, with the opening question, "Are you going to plant a garden this summer?" We were able to engage most people we approached. 162 adults, 113 kids. Gardening is a BIG topic right now!

It was a good trial run for the plant sale. We had two demos--a low tunnel covered with row cover fabric, and a tomato cage/black plastic bag coverup for new plants. Despite the little bit of rain that fell, we were busy and all had a good time!



JOIN THE FARMERS MARKET GANG!

Need hours? Want to make new friends and work with the public?

Job Description



- ⇒ Wear aprons, name tags Optional: wear pins
- ⇒ 8:30am: Meet at the Cougar Cottage. Move FM supplies to market and set up the canopy, tables, pamphlets and brochures and flower bouquets for our tables
- ⇒ Greet people and invite them to the booth
- ⇒ Give out samples such as WA state fruits and veggies, and information
- ⇒ Engage kids with small projects and coloring pages, crayons
- ⇒ Listen actively to questions and concerns and guide problem solving by asking questions and clarifying cultural practices.
- ⇒ Offer suggestions based on research-based information from WSU and other .edu sources
- ⇒ Send clients to PIC with a map to the office and hours
- ⇒ Give instructions on how to bring good samples to PIC
- ⇒ We tell folks about other services like classes, the demo gardens and plant sale
- ⇒ Take down canopy and booth at 2pm and transport to Cougar Cottage
- ⇒ Breaks: visit booths and talk to vendors. Buy kettlecorn, veggies and crafts
- ⇒ Shifts: 2 or 3 hours We have our booth every other Saturday starting May 7, 2022 until October



NO GREENHOUSE? NO EXCUSES!

Jerry Winchell

**The Season is too short for gardens
I don't have a greenhouse
It's too expensive to heat anyway...**

You have heard the excuses, but if it's been done before it's probably possible. Sooo... I took a pilgrimage to the little lady who has grown 5000 plants for the Lewis County Plant Sale-- in one year! (Her name is Barbara.) She has no huge commercial greenhouse, but has several smaller modest types scattered around her property, and she tends them all by herself.

Where does all the sprouting happen and where do all the sprouts grow? In the house (of course). It's already warm! Over the ta-

bles and shelves were LED shop lights (5000 lumens, 5000 K). These weren't big buck versions, and I found some that looked identical from [Amazon for \\$10 each](#). They did the job! (If she can, I can.)

My skepticism paled before her vast success and for the last two years I've grown about 150 tomatoes and peppers for our plant sale—in our laundry room!! It works!! We can do amazing things and have almost all we need already. (See pictures.) Imagine what we as MG could do in a spare corner of the house for only a few months till we can grow outside!

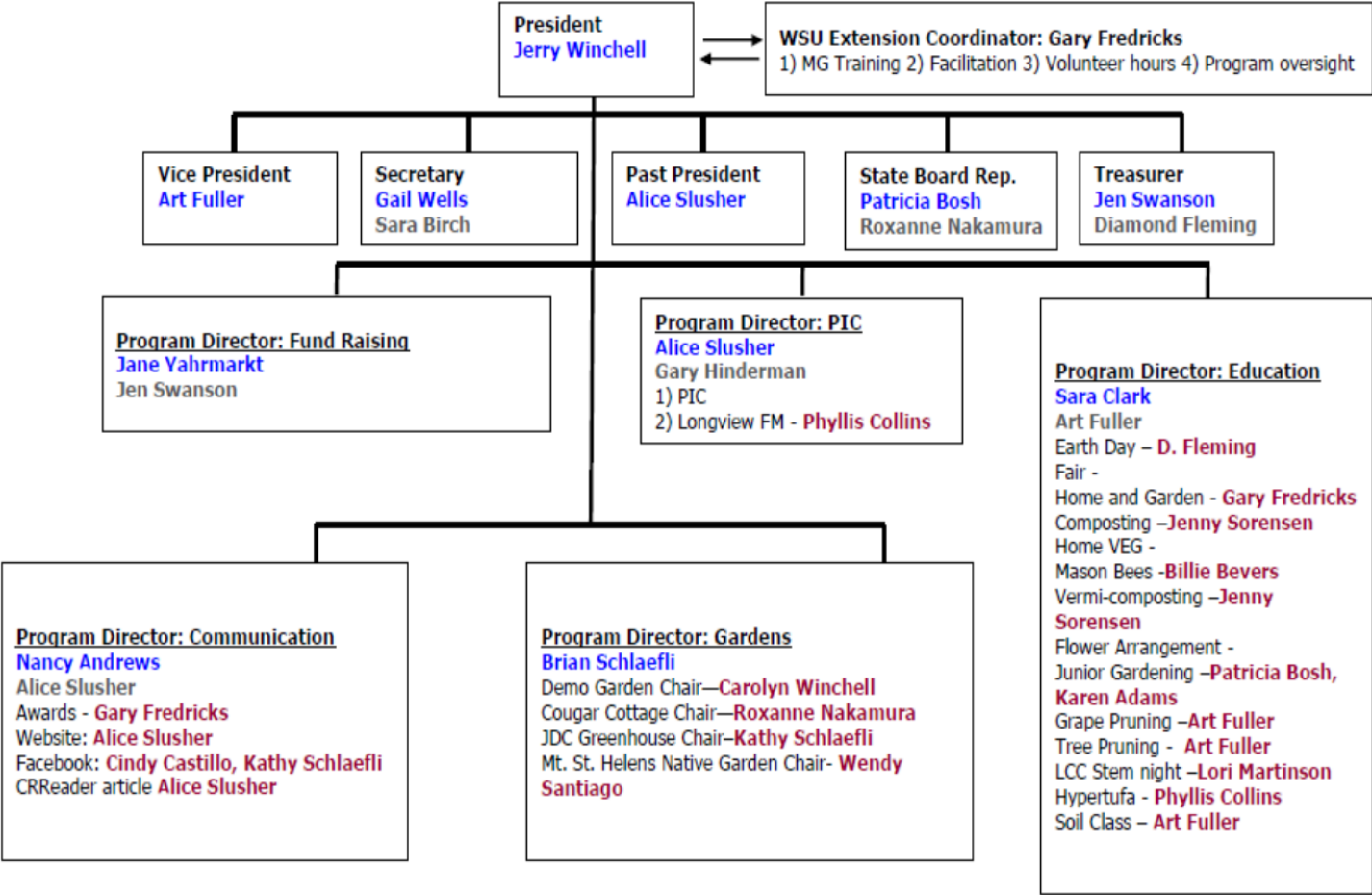
Call me if you want ideas to set up for next year.



MEETING MINUTES

No meeting in May

Cowlitz County Master Gardener 2022 Foundation Board



Foundation Officer
Alternate
Program Chair

