

# Master Gardener Newsletter



WSU EXTENSION  
Cowlitz County



OCTOBER 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](mailto:garyf@wsu.edu)  
**Georgianna Jessop**  
Administrative Secretary  
360-577-3014 Extension 0  
[JessopG@cowlitzwa.gov](mailto:JessopG@cowlitzwa.gov)

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

**HortSense Fact Sheets**  
[hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/](http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/)  
**PestSense Fact Sheets**  
[pestsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/](http://pestsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/)

**Pest Leaflet Series**  
[puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/  
pls/](http://puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/pls/)

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

**WSU Master Gardener**  
[www.cowlitzcomg.com/](http://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.*

## Awesome!

*"A comfort zone is a beautiful place – but nothing grows there." ~ John Assaraf*

When something goes well beyond your wildest dreams, you might describe it as wonderful, great, remarkable, or maybe even outstanding but in this case, I like the word awesome. So how would you describe awesome. If you win one million dollars on a scratch ticket, that is awesome. If your tomato plant grows twelve feet tall high and gives you over 100 pounds of tomatoes, that is awesome. When everything in your garden blooms for six months and not one weed pops up, that would be awesome.

The trainees are already making a difference. All of the garden projects in the county supported by the Master Gardeners has trainees volunteering their time and experience. Some trainees have provided talks at workshops and while others have responded to requests from local organizations. Most of them have already spent time working with clientele in the plant and insect clinic. They bring their talents, knowledge and experience to share with each of us. They bring an energy and enthusiasm to all the activities that have been planned this year. They have already brought forth several new projects such as the museum garden, lilac gardens answering booth, and several youth projects. They have an eagerness to make our community a better place. They are AWESOME!

That is not to overlook the wonderful veteran Master Gardeners that make all the above and more happen. They provide the wisdom and leadership that makes that provides hundreds of hours of knowledge that reached thousands of people in Cowlitz County. They are always there to support the trainees and help them to continue to advance in their own accomplishments. They too are also AWESOME.

As this year progresses, I want to pass along my final words to the class. After receiving over 90 hours of training, the true tragedy for each volunteer would be not to share what you learned with others. We have thousands of people in this community that need the knowledge that you now possess. So get out and volunteer. Don't let inactivity creep into your calendar. There are plenty of opportunities to support new projects and expand continuing activities.

My personal thanks to each of you for your continued support and volunteering your talents. Without your help, this incredible organization, and the impact it has would not be possible.

# Announcements

**Plant and Insect Clinic** is open!  
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](http://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
- ◆ [Remembering Bart Andrews](#)
- ◆ [MG of the Year Award Nominations](#)
- ◆ [In the news](#)
- ◆ [What I learned in the garden this year](#)
- ◆ [In the Demo Garden](#)
- ◆ [October Foundation Mtg. Minutes](#)

Log your Volunteer Hours

givepulse

[wsu.givepulse.com/group/453100-WSU-Cowlitz-County-Master-Gardeners](http://wsu.givepulse.com/group/453100-WSU-Cowlitz-County-Master-Gardeners)

[wsu.givepulse.com/group/453100-WSU-  
Cowlitz-County-Master-Gardeners](http://wsu.givepulse.com/group/453100-WSU-Cowlitz-County-Master-Gardeners)

## - 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](mailto:alslush@gmail.com)  
**Articles for November issue due November 14, 2022**

# Meetings & Event

## Annual Planning Meeting

November 18, 2022

10 am – 1 pm

ZOOM



MASTER  
GARDENER  
CALENDAR

Upcoming Workshops (Tues. 12 pm on Zoom unless otherwise noted)

[cowlitzcomg.com/public-events](http://cowlitzcomg.com/public-events)

## OCTOBER

|        |                      |                |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|
| Oct 18 | Dividing perennials  | Gail Gibbard   |
| Oct 25 | Winter Care of Lawns | Gary Fredricks |

## November

|       |                                  |            |
|-------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Nov 1 | Critter Control in the Landscape | Art Fuller |
|-------|----------------------------------|------------|

Master Gardener  
**Directory**

On members' page of website

## REMEMBERING BART ANDREWS

### We will miss you!

Bart absolutely LOVED to start seedlings. "Start" is the key word here. Last April 3rd, Bart came over and we sowed approximately 370 seeds for the plant sale. Thank goodness he and Marge came over several weeks later to help me up-pot a lot of them, or I surely would have gone insane.

Bart later brought over loads of tomatoes, peppers, and alyssum that he had started and evidently didn't have room for over at his house. Our house became a nursery and all I did day in and day out was take care of plants. About a month ago, Marge told us that they had even more seedlings they *still* hadn't transplanted -- they just had too many!

What Bart never found out was that I had a whole tray of alyssum he gave me that I hadn't managed to transplant. One day, I found out they were headed



over to our house to visit, and the tray of mostly dead alyssum starts was sitting outside. I couldn't let him see that I neglected the alyssum and it was dying. So I hurriedly planted the few that were still alive, and then dug two different trenches in my flower bed where I quickly "buried" the rest of the starts from the 72-cell tray!

Next spring, I hope alyssum grows from those trenches and continues to grow every year, because it will make us think of him and all his seedlings. They will be the "Bart" alyssum.

Taking care of all those seedlings that Bart and I sowed was a pain in the tail end, but I'm so glad I have this memory of Bart and got to spend that time with him.

Nancy Andrews



*Nancy in awe of her disappearing counterspace as Bart enthusiastically prepares to plant more seeds.*



*Bruce Andrews poking drain holes in cup prior to his brother Bart sowing seeds.*



## REMEMBERING BART ANDREWS

### We will miss you!

Bart was only with our Cowlitz Master Gardeners for a short time—but as we got to know him, we prized his sweet, gentle manner, his quiet but sharp intelligence, the ready smile that lit up his face, and his enthusiasm to explore the many volunteer areas that our group has to offer.

Bart and Marge were regulars on our Zoom workshops long before Nancy Andrews talked her sister- and brother-in-law into joining the 2022 MG Training class. During training, Bart manned a computer and led his group in the plant diagnosis exercises.

He and Marge were two of the first trainees to spend time in the Plant and Insect Clinic, where Bart—with his innate curiosity and computer skills—quickly caught onto the problem-solving process for plant diagnosis. Early on, he proudly researched and identified a moth he'd found.

Bart and Marge volunteered for the Earth Day MG Booth at Lake Sacajawea in April—we had fun that showery afternoon! He could be found planting seeds and up-potting at the greenhouse. Most recently, he was a well-liked and respected mentor at the In The Garden With the Master Gardeners workshop series.



While up-potting at Bruce and Nancy Andrews, I saw this crawling on the dirt floor. Been researching it on-line and it looks like a type of one eyed sphinx moth *Smerinthus cerisyi*. Family Spingidae, Subfamily Spinginae. (Bart, April 2022)

*Email from Bart about the moth he found and identified*

Goodbye, Bart—hope you're up there crowding heaven with flowers—planting seeds and letting the angels transplant them! We will miss you.

We all extend our heartfelt condolences to Marge, Bruce, and Nancy.

Alice Slusher

I spent my first Earth Day volunteering experience with Bart. It was great to share the “newbie” experience with him. It was fun to get to spend those hours with him. We talked about poster making and our presentation ideas..

Patti Borgaard



I learned that Bart, like myself wanted to learn how to catch a fish.

At the last potluck, I was telling him what s great fisherman Patricia Bosh's husband, (Gerry) is.

We talked fishing for half an hour.

Both of us never having caught one!

I was hoping to get to know him better.



## REMEMBERING BART ANDREWS

### We will miss you!

He was a gentle soul—kind and supportive in the background. He came because he cared and not for glory or show. You could count on him. He was always dependable and friendly.

He was a little surprised to be a mentor in the “In the Garden...” series of classes, but loved it and valued being there together with his group.

Some of “His group” were in tears when they learned that he would not be back.

Bart Andrews. What can we say about you. We miss you.

Jerry Winchell  
And the rest of us who served with Bart.

Bart was a great addition to our greenhouse volunteers. He and Margaret made a wonderful team in the greenhouse. They were faithfully consistent to show up and help.

Bart seeded, watered, and potted tomatoes and peppers. He helped out with grounds work party days, often doing the heavy, hard jobs. Bart’s gentle demeanor and can-do attitude along with his smile and quiet wit will be greatly missed.

Kathy and Brian Schlaefli



Slideshow [“Remembering Bart.”](#)

A “**Celebration of Life**” will be held in honor of Bart on Sunday October 23 from 2-4 PM on the Demo Garden lawn because he loved being there. If the weather becomes a problem, we will let you know where it will move to. Marge and her family hope you can join them.

(Click on first pic to enlarge, then use arrows to move through the album.)



# HELP TO CHOOSE THE MG/INTERN OF THE YEAR!

**Deadline Extended to November 1st**

The Committee encourages Cowlitz County MGs to come forward to nominate the excellent MGs for the 2022 Master Gardener of the Year Award in our county.

This is now a ONCE IN A LIFETIME award for MG Veterans. Please take the time, thought, and research to get the best information you can.

If you don't know about certain aspects of your nominee's qualities, *ask others who might*. You can even ask the nominee, too.

Remember, if you leave one of the skill levels blank, your nominee gets a "0" for that section. If you don't give examples, it will be hard for the committee to make an accurate assessment. Be as specific as possible so you can show your nominee in the best light.

**Nominations are due no later than November 1, 2022.**

**Download and print forms:**

- [Nomination Form \(Veteran\)](#)
- [Nomination Form \(Intern\)](#)
- [Example](#) nomination

**Previous winners** of the VETERAN of the year awards are not eligible to receive it again. Previous INTERNS of the year will be eligible to receive the Veteran of the year award in the future.

- [Previous MGs honored for MG Veteran and Intern of the Year](#)

**You may also pick up a printed form at the Extension office on the shelf outside the secretary's office.**



**It's worth the time**

**to honor this very special Master Gardener and Intern.**



# IN THE NEWS

## WSU Cowlitz County EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



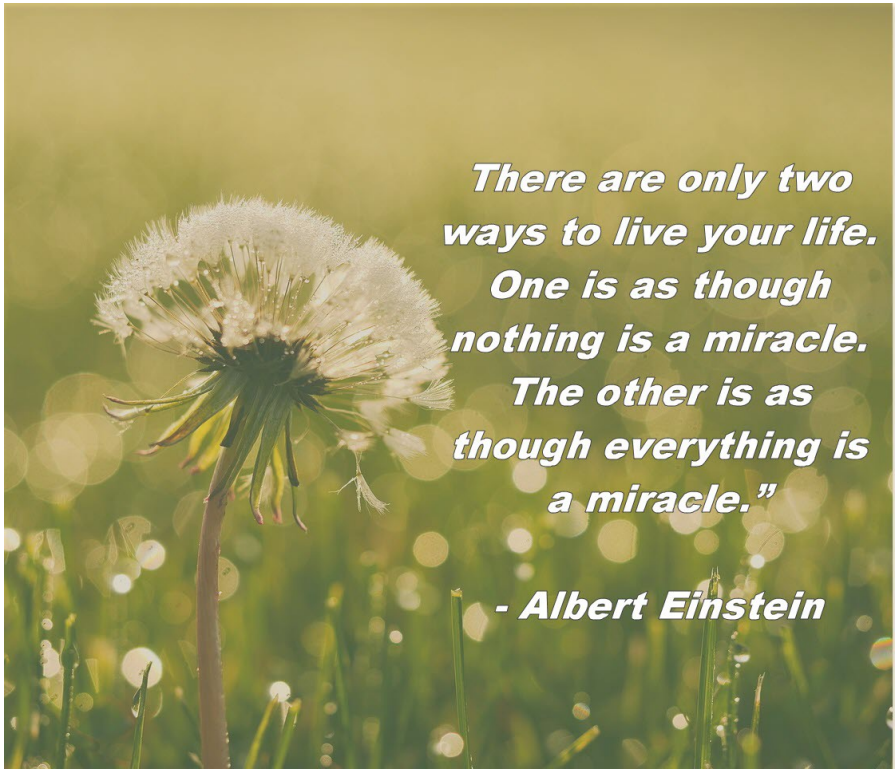
2022  
Advanced  
Education  
Conference

Karin Stormo, Cheryl Coddington, Patti Borggaard  
Jerry Winchell, Carolyn Winchell, Anne Wolff,  
Dara Reynolds, Alice Slusher

Patricia Bosh, Phyllis Collins, Roxanne Nakamura,  
Dale Wheeler, Sara Clark, Nancy Andrews  
**Olympia, Washington**

Fourteen Master Gardeners from Cowlitz County attended the 2022 AEC. We learned so much and had a blast!

Hope everyone will think about attending the AEC September 27-30, 2023, in Tacoma.



*There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."*

*- Albert Einstein*



## What did I learn in the garden this year?

### *From Nancy Andrews:*

#### **What lessons did I learn in my garden this year? Here are just some of them:**

- ⇒ Do NOT plant winter squash in the row next to your tomatoes, or even two or 3 rows over. Plant winter squash in a plot all by itself -- maybe in another country! Seriously, plant it several YARDS away from everything else, because it took over my garden! I had trouble walking down the aisles because it was sprawling everywhere, and then it grabbed hold of my tomato trellising (I used the Florida Weave). It goes EVERYWHERE! So maybe next year I'll set up something for it to climb.
- ⇒ If you use the Territorial Seed Garden Planner (which is really cool), do NOT trust what it says as far as distance between plants -- especially when it comes to squash!!
- ⇒ DO use the Florida weave for your tomatoes! It was awesome! But... group similarly-sized tomatoes together. I had some really short tomatoes next to some tall-growing cherry tomatoes, and that was really awkward for the Florida Weave. Otherwise, the Florida Weave worked like a charm!
- ⇒ If you grow "Crackerjack" marigolds, be careful where you plant them. They supposedly grow 2-3 ft. tall. However, I think they grew to 4 ft. tall in my greenhouse. They are like trees and, like squash, take over the garden!
- ⇒ Keep lots of plant stakes and ties on hand. Stake sunflowers, tall marigolds, tall zinnias, cosmos and borage at planting or soon thereafter. It all falls over if you don't!
- ⇒ Don't transplant perennials in the summer unless you have an irrigation system other than hand watering. There isn't enough rain and so many of them will likely die -- waste of time and money.
- ⇒ Do NOT use row cover fabric to "shade" plants, such as hydrangeas, from the hot afternoon sun unless you want to fry them. It creates an oven and only makes the situation worse. Use shade cloth instead.
- ⇒ Create a deer barrier around potted roses and geraniums by surrounding them with potted herbs. Some patio furniture in front of them helps as well!
- ⇒ Deer really do like to eat fuchsias. Hang them high because deer are taller than you think.
- ⇒ Start corn in coffee cups filled with potting soil in April. Transplant the starts when the ground warms up. We started the corn coffee cups in our unheated greenhouse and it worked perfectly. We had tons of corn!
- ⇒ You only \*think\* you're being aggressive when you prune your blueberry bushes. If they are decades old and haven't had a decent pruning in all that time, you MUST remove those old woody canes and give the bushes the chance to rejuvenate. Yes, it will feel all wrong, but in a couple of years the plants will be productive with plump berries. At least I sure hope so. I promise I'm going to do this next winter with the majority of our blueberry bushes.
- ⇒ Learn how to prune winter squash. Then maybe it won't take over the garden -- and the squash might be bigger too!
- ⇒ Fuchsias prefer shade. Roses prefer sun. They both require deer protection.
- ⇒ 32 tomato plants were too many in 2021. 30 were still far too many in 2022! I should probably halve that number.
- ⇒ Bee Balm (monarda) is lovely! Grow more of it! It attracts pollinators and is deer and rabbit-resistant. It is a perennial and can be divided.
- ⇒ Using grass clippings as mulch appears to deter both rabbits and slugs. Go figure.





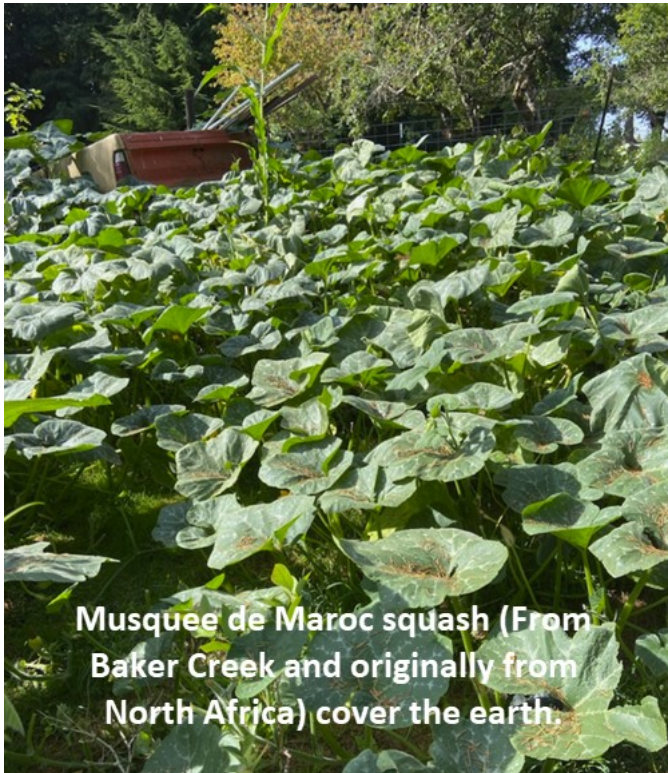
## Thoughts from MGs 2022 Gardens

**Carolyn Winchell**

### What I've Learned in the Garden This Year

Jerry and I learned several things this year in our garden. I'll give you my version:

Musquee de Maroc squash (From Baker Creek and originally from North Africa)) cover the earth. They also seem not to be bothered by powdery mildew.



Musquee de Maroc squash (From Baker Creek and originally from North Africa) cover the earth.

We learned that we can grow cantaloupe and honeydew here with great success. We learned they like heat. We grew them in cement block raised beds (1 ½-2 ft deep) filled with 4 Corner's Organic Potting soil and horse manure. This bed is against the south wall of our shop so it benefits from reflected heat. They have not been affected by powdery mildew. Altogether, Jerry counted 27 melons from three plants. The most productive were Divergent F1 Cantaloupe and Honeycomb Honeydew (Territorial Seed.) We started them inside in gallon pots and then transplanted them outside and covered them with row cover because it was still cold. They shivered awhile and then took off. Jerry says this is the best honeydew he's eaten which is pretty much what Territorial Seed Catalogue says as



well. It was hard to keep up with eating the melons from these two plants. They like heat, well-drained, loamy soil and at least an inch of water a week—2 inches can be preferable.

I learned that Cardinal Basil (Baker Creek, again!) makes great pesto.

I also learned that I can (haven't done it yet) I can dig up my lovely eggplants and bring them inside and they often continue to bear. I intend to do that.

We learned that Siberian Giant Pink tomatoes (Adaptive Seeds) have a huge yield and tends to be later in the season. We love them. They can be a bit odd in their shape.

We were hugely impressed with San Marzano Gigante 3 because of the size (and they made great tomato sauce—Jerry says that the best I've made.) Someone else must like it too, because, currently, every seed catalogue that I've checked that carries the seed is out. Guess, we're going to be saving seed for sure. We'd better hurry. I'm taking a big black Sharpie out tomorrow to write on three tomatoes "DO NOT EAT!" I'm learning to start thinking about saving seed. Rats! I had one more batch of spaghetti sauce in mind.

We were reminded that we still really love Dr. Wychee's Yellow tomato from Baker Creek. It's a big lovely beefsteak.

I discovered Ratatouille –a French soup which uses primarily tomatoes, eggplant and zucchini. What better late summer soup could you wish for. Here's the [recipes for vegan Ratatouille and pesto](#).

And I was reminded again of the benefits of inten-



## Thoughts from MGs 2022 Gardens

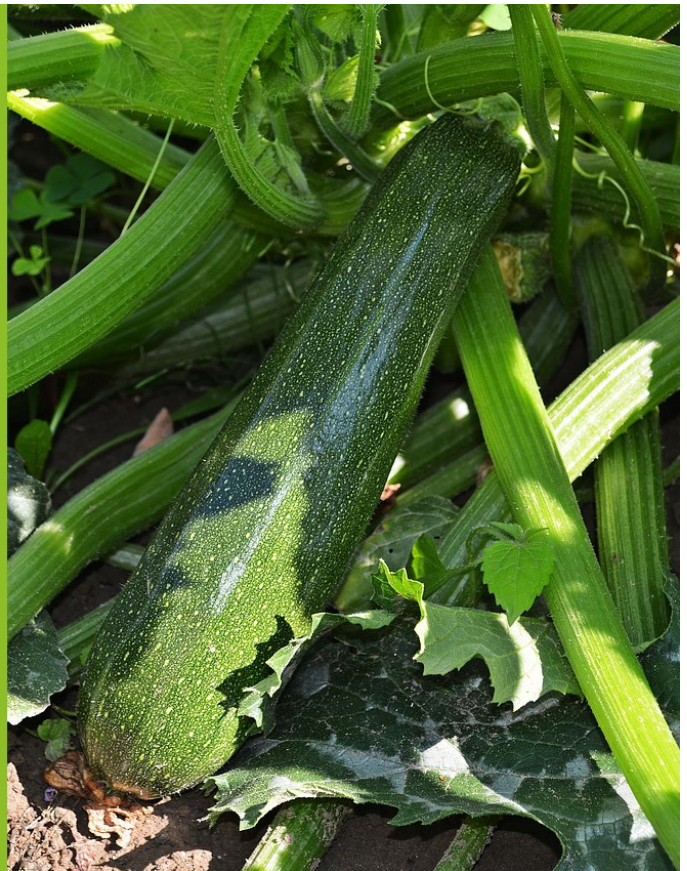
sive planting as I walk through our garden now. Intensive planting creates a “leafy mulch” which leaves little light for weeds and just makes a beautiful garden. I’m currently loving our beautiful bouquets of collards. I just like to go out and look at them for joy.

I’ve learned that few things give Jerry more joy than going out and looking at his Blue Hubbard squash every morning to see how much bigger it’s grown.

I’ve learned that it’s late and I’d better get this in to Alice so she can include this in the newsletter! Good night!



*There are no  
gardening mistakes,  
Only experiments!*



## Thoughts from MGs 2022 Gardens

### Alice Slusher I learned that

- ◆ An easy way for me to compost is to have two interchangeable bins right outside the chicken house cleanout trap. Lots of greens and browns right at my fingertips--or rather the tips of my gloves (Ewww!). It's right next to a hose, and it's really easy to aerate the pile by moving the fencing to the other posts and shoveling it into



the new spot.

- ◆ I learned that it IS possible to grow peppers in at our 1000 ft. elevation—with a little help. We spray painted several gallon jugs black, filled them with water, and set them at the bases of our peppers. The jugs store up the heat all day, and provide warmer nighttime temps. Early in the season, we also erected a lean-to



- covered with poly sheeting over the peppers to help keep the peppers warm on those chilly nights.
- ◆ I've learned that cold spring temps that last until July really make those "days to maturity" on the seed packs all lies. If it weren't for the summer weather we're enjoying through most of October, we wouldn't have had much of a tomato harvest.
- ◆ I've learned that planting a flower garden next to the veggies brings in an incredible number of pollinators and beneficial insects that take care of the pests in my veggie garden!
- ◆ Once again I've learned that I'm still planting too many tomatoes! And I've learned to resist the temptation to take home "mystery squash" from the Plant Sale. I think if I stood too still next to the squash beds, I would be eaten up.



- ◆ Using a row cover works very well as a sun shade for hydrangeas, but you can't wrap the plants up in the cloth (it cooks the plant! I learned THAT the hard way last year). If you make a screen that block the sun, it works great!



## Thoughts from MGs 2022 Gardens

### *Jerry Winchell*

Some people like flowers.

Some like lawns.

Some like variety... This is all good, but I like mass!

Oh—it's got to taste good, but I don't just want a spoonful...

Well, this year, I tried a version of C Maxima—a Winter Squash called Blue Hubbard. It's a longer season plant (about 120 days) so I dutifully sprouted it sometime in March! Don't do that. It will eat the cat and dog and crowd you out of bed before the last frost when you can get it out of the house!! It loves heat and is a heavy feeder, so I planted it in a well-tilled area next to the manure pile! Oh, My! It rose up and covered the earth, but left gratifyingly large blue monsters along the way.



Three weeks ago, I slid a postal scale under one of those babies. It weighted 34 lbs. It's got to be over 40 lbs. now, but Alice wanted to get the newsletter out and I don't have time to go weigh it again! It's still growing, so I can't tell you how it tastes either, but if it's anything like the 32 pounder I grew last year, I'll be smiling all the way to the freezer!

Seriously—just cook it, put it in Ziplock bags and freeze it. Later, just throw it in the microwave, add butter and salt, mash it like potatoes, and Ooooooh... For other options and uses contact Carolyn. She can make anything taste good!

### *Patti Borgaard*

My biggest gardening learning experience this year was to realize how much work it is to start and keep a compost bin going.

### *Trisha Bonapace*

#### **What I learned in my garden.**

Not to plant a little bit of everything that I THINK, I can take care of.

### *Roman*

My mother called them pickers. We know them as rubus or maybe brambles. We cut, we dig, some spray. But in the end.....the pickers always win.



# Showcasing our beautiful Demonstration Gardens at the Fairgrounds



# MEETING MINUTES

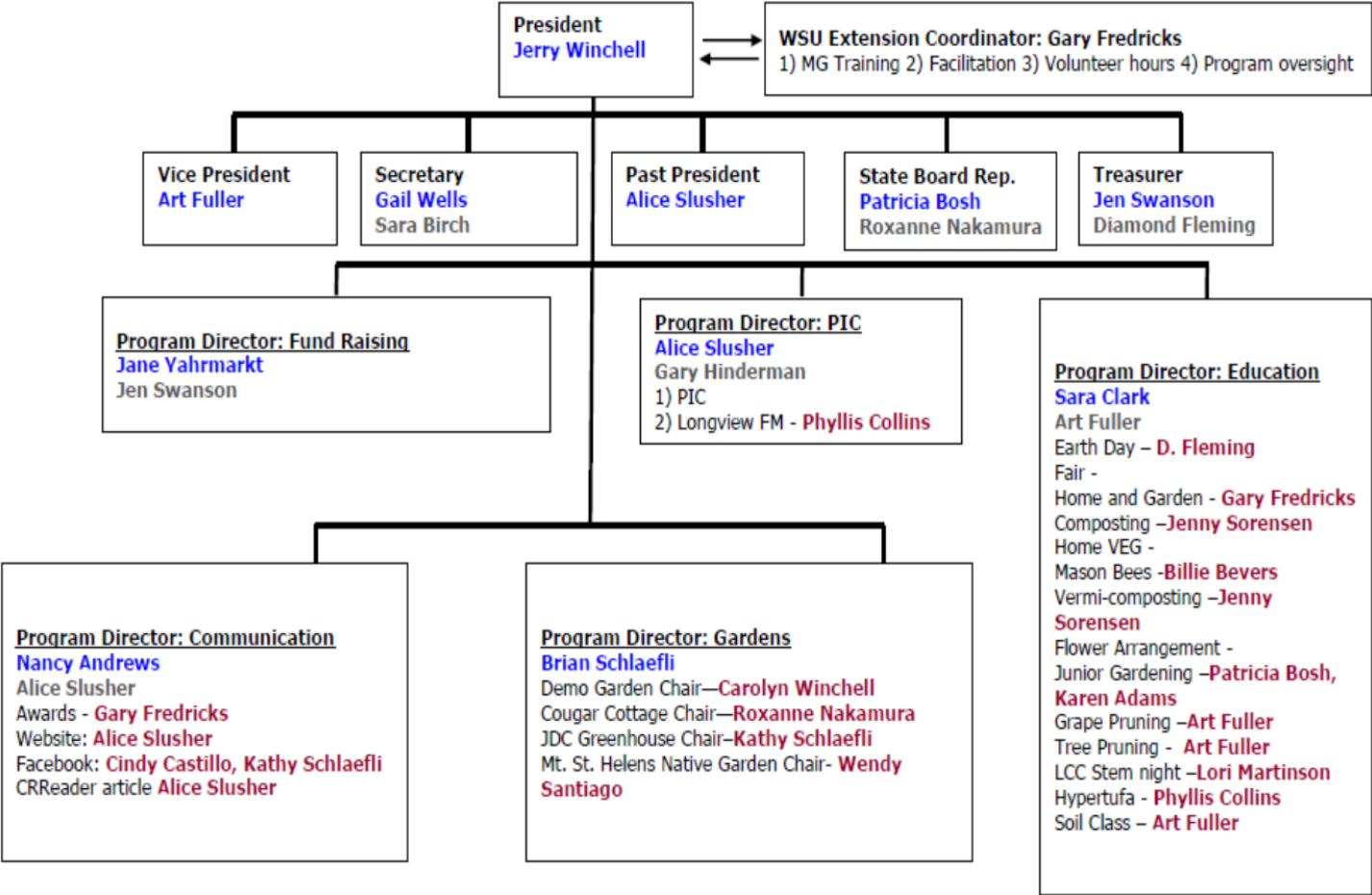
## October Foundation Meeting Minutes

### ELECTION OF 2023 MGFCC OFFICERS

The Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County will be holding the election of officers at the Annual Planting Meeting on November 18, 10 am-1 pm (Zoom).

If you are a [2022 Foundation member](#), we encourage you to participate in electing our 2023 leaders. The list of nominees for the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary will be announced soon.

Cowlitz County Master Gardener 2022 Foundation Board



Foundation Officer  
Alternate  
Program Chair

