

Master Gardener Newsletter



OCTOBER 2022
304 COWLITZ WAY,
KELSO, WA 98626

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN

Gary Fredricks

Not more paperwork!

“People hate change and love it at the same time. What we really want is for things to remain the same but get better.” ~ Sydney J. Harris

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WSU Gardening Websites

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/](http://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.

Our previous home had a beautiful maple tree in our backyard. It stood about 60 feet high, and we loved to look at it off our back porch. Then one winter night, a powerful wind blew causing the tree to explode across the yard. Now all that is left is part of the main trunk. Damage was minimal to the yard, but what remained changed the landscape. Its ability to shield us from the noise of I-5 and provide shade is now lost. It will be missed.

In life, we can count on things will change. This year we have a new recording system to report service hours. Paperwork! Arrrrrrgh! We all hate to fill out more paperwork. Yet it is essential to report your service hours. **Why?**

There is no doubt that the MG's provide outstanding service to our community. Those that finance WSU Extension (Cowlitz County, State and National) expect an accountability of what we do with those funds. The continuation of all WSU programs is based on what we report. By reporting your hours and contacts, your good work tells of the positive impact WSU MG have on our community and justifies continued support of this program. **So why haven't some volunteers reported hours?**

I don't have a computer. No problem. Write down your hours and send it to me, and I am happy to enter them in. You can give me a call and let me know over the phone. I would enjoy visiting with you.

I have problems with the on-line program. Give me a call and we will work together to solve the problem. It was confusing for me when I first used the program, but thanks to those at WSU that worked with me; I now can make it work.

I just don't want to do it. I appreciate that you became a volunteer to serve others, not to mess with paperwork. I am happy to log hours in for you. It is requirement of all WSU volunteers in the state to log their hours. The quote from WSU is **“We (WSU and WSU Extension) are required by state statute to provide workers' compensation insurance to all volunteers. To provide workers' compensation insurance, WA State Department of Labor and Industries requires that we have accurate records of times volunteers are working on our behalf. If we cannot provide workers' compensation insurance for our volunteers, we cannot continue to have volunteers working on our behalf.”** If you have not reported any hours, then the state does not recognize you as a WSU volunteer and you are not covered by insurance.

Thanks to all of you for the service you give this community. So many people benefit from all the work that you have given.

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

In this issue

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

- ◆ [Reflections from the Garden](#) Gary Fredricks
- ◆ [Meet the 2023 Foundation Board](#)
- ◆ [WSU Extension MGs—Foundation—what’s the difference?](#)
- ◆ [Become a 2023 Foundation Member](#)
- ◆ [Leaf Exchange Report](#)-Art Fuller
- ◆ [My Thanksgiving Poem](#)-Sara Clark
- ◆ [Reports from the Squashaholic](#)-Jerry Winchell
- ◆ [Annual Foundation Planning Mtg. Minutes](#)

Log your Volunteer Hours

givepulse

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

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: Georgianna Jessop: JessopG@cowlitzwa.gov
Articles for January issue due January 14, 2023

Meetings & Event

Foundation Meeting

January 10, 2023

10 am – ZOOM



MASTER
GARDENER
CALENDAR

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

cowlitzcomg.com/public-events

- | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------------|
| Jan. 17 | Sharpening Tools | Jerry Winchell |
| Jan. 24 | Caring for Fruit Trees | Alice Slusher |
| Jan. 31 | Fruit Tree Pruning | Art Fuller |
| Feb. 4 | IN-PERSON Fruit tree care and pruning | Art Fuller/Alice Slusher |
| Feb. 7 | Planning Your Seed Starting Schedule | Dale and Sara |
| Feb. 14 | Seed Starting at Home | Alice Slusher |

Master Gardener
Directory

On members’ page of website

2023 Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County Board of Directors

Meet the board members of Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County.
MGFCC Board of Directors 2023

President: Art Fuller
Vice President: Dale Wheeler
Past President: Jerry Winchell
Treasurer: Jen Swanson
Secretary: Gail Wells
State Rep: Patricia Bosh, (Roxanne Nakamura)

Program Directors

Fund Raising	Cheryl Coddington
Communications	Nancy Andrews
Gardens (DG, CC, GH, MSH)	Brian Schlaefli
Education	Sara Clark
Plant/Insect Clinic (PIC, FM)	Alice Slusher

Standing Committees 2022 (not board members)

Carolyn Winchell (Demo Garden Chair)
Kathy Schlaefli (JDC Greenhouse Chair)
Roxanne Nakamura (Cougar Cottage Chair)
Wendy Santiago (Mt. St. Helens Native Garden Chair)
Phyllis Collins (LV Farmers Market Chair)

What does the foundation do?

Master Gardeners do great things for Cowlitz County residents. The Foundation does great things for Master Gardeners. Join the Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County and participate in the Fun, Planning, and Fundraising.



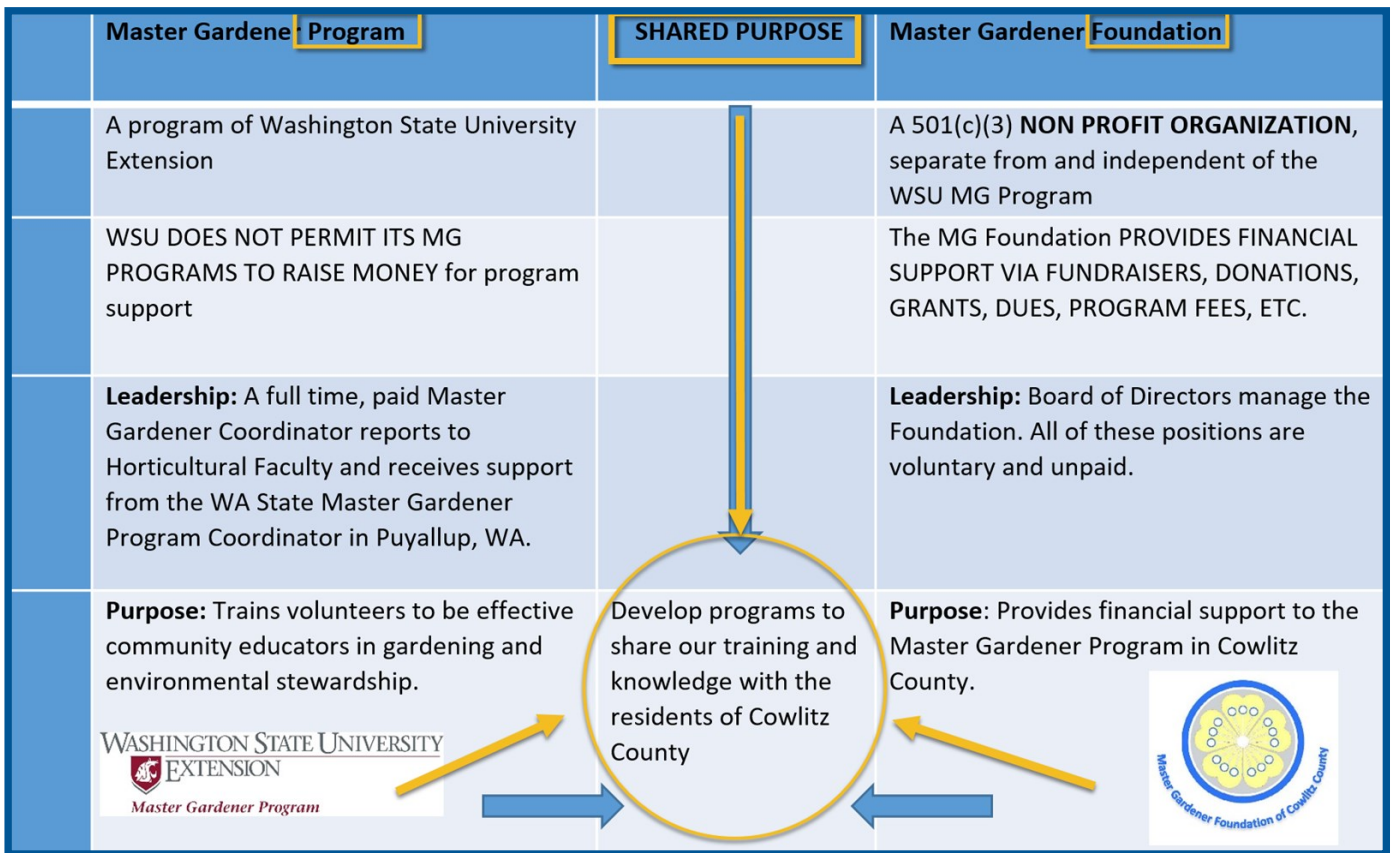
MASTER GARDENERS? FOUNDATION?

What's the relationship??

The Master Gardener Program is a partnership between WSU and Cowlitz County, both of which provide funding and support for the Cooperative Extension, our parent organization.

However, the **activities of our robust volunteer program receive no state or county support.** This is where the Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County comes in.

The Foundation's purpose is to support the Master Gardener Program by providing funding for our activities. As a 501(c)(3) entity, the Foundation can receive and dispense tax deductible charitable contributions as well as conducting fund-raising events such as our annual plant sale, and other activities.



Why should you become a member?

With the Foundation's support, we are able to offer programs like

- ⇒ The Home VEG Raised Bed Give-away
- ⇒ The "In the Garden with the Master Gardeners" series
- ⇒ Seed- starting, Seed-saving, Kokedama, Worm bin, Mason Bees in-person workshops.



WHAT DOES THE FOUNDATION DO?

Please become a 2023 Foundation Member

The Foundation provides financial support for

- ⇒ Our beautiful Demonstration Gardens
- ⇒ Plant and Insect Clinic
- ⇒ Greenhouse
- ⇒ Our website
- ⇒ Our MG Awards

The Foundation

- ⇒ Serves as a liaison between the MGs, WSU Staff, and the community.
- ⇒ Provides information to MG's and others through Foundation meetings, the Sustainable Gardening series of lectures, email communications, and through outreach to the community via the website, Facebook, and our community calendar.

Please be a Foundation Member in 2023

Please join us in planning a fantastic new year of fun and outreach! Dues are \$20 payable by credit card, cash, or check.

my.cheddarup.com/c/mgfcc-2023-membership-dues

We are gearing up for getting a lot done in 2023. And we need your help. Please be an active part of the planning and Board of directors election process—your ideas and experience are essential!

Please join us in planning a fantastic new year of fun and outreach! Dues are \$20 payable by credit card, cash, or check.

my.cheddarup.com/c/mgfcc-2023-membership-dues

Please use the link above to sign up, even if you prefer to pay by check or cash. It makes it easier

for our Treasurer, Jen Swanson, to keep track of memberships.

The bylaws state that foundation dues are to be paid by January 1.

If you'd rather, you can [download a form here](#), (or get one at the office) fill it out, and submit your dues at the office.

If paying by cash or check, please mail or drop off at the Extension Office: 304 Cowlitz Way, Kelso, WA, 98626. Please place check or cash in an envelope with your name and the note "Foundation Dues.," and place it in the secure



2ND ANNUAL LEAF EXCHANGE REPORT

Art Fuller

Days: 2-day event 5 Nov. 2022 and 12 Nov. 2022.
Vol Hours: 9:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Event Time: 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Advertising: Newspaper, Facebook, Emails, Word of Mouth.

Total Bags both days: 58 in/out: 55 bags donated + 3 bags of loose fairground leaves. Four bags less (but still zero bags left) and two less customers than last year. Numerous thanks given for the service provided.

Traffic Flow: Entered Cowlitz County Fairgrounds from Washington Street. Sandwich board with WSU logo and directional arrows at entrance. Cars entered through open gated fence and made a left where the lane was divided by a canopy and table.

What worked well:

- Traffic flow (did not have a very good test run due to the low volume of people).
- Having enough volunteers, canopy for coverage while raining. The great teamwork and fun.

Suggested Improvements:

- Weights for the canopy.
- Info brochure regarding leaf mulching, benefits etc.

Recommendations: Set up a donation can.

- Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate for warmth in Cougar Cottage. Next year recommend starting the drop-off from 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. and pick-up from 10:30 A.M. - 1 P.M. to ensure we have bags to giveaway prior to pick up.
- Hard to guess leaf drop maybe separate dates by two weeks rather than one (5th and 17th).

Thanks to our Volunteers: Sara Clark, Art Fuller, Marilee Hertig, Barb LaChine, Doug Moffett, Margret Nunnelley, Brian Schlaefli, Pam Starnes, Erin Chambers, John Crowe, Merry Jensen.

WSU Cowlitz County
EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

2nd Annual
**LEAF
EXCHANGE**
Drop off or
Take home

Cowlitz Co.
Fairgrounds

November 5th and 12th
10 am-1 pm



<https://extension.wsu.edu/cowlitz/img/>
WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension Office. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Gary Friedrich at 360-577-3014 or gary@wsu.edu at least three weeks prior to the event.



MY THANKSGIVING POEM

Sara Clark

Rising early,
I find myself standing
in front of the fridge,
Half awake,
Bracing myself for the battle.

My bare feet are Chilled
by November's touch
On the wooden kitchen floor.
Behind those fridge doors
Two turkeys await:
Clammy and Goose-pimpled,
and Heavy.
Very Heavy.

What follows next is
Best described as
Dead Turkey Wrestling.
Every step is a fight.
Naturally, their carcasses
Are still partially
Frozen.
Giblets and neck are
Rarely
easily removed
From the icy cavities
Where someone
Carefully
placed them
While knowing that
No one,
nowadays,
Will use them at all.

My daughter,
At age 11,
Cooking her first turkey,
Sobbed.
Touching it's cold body,
She felt its death,
And mourned it.

Today,
As I struggle
With each slippery,
Unwieldy
opponent,
I don't cry.
I don't even shy away
from the feel of the Bird's
inner chamber:
My chilled fingers unemotionally
Identify the rib ridges
And
The traces of left-behind "innards"
As my grandmother called them.

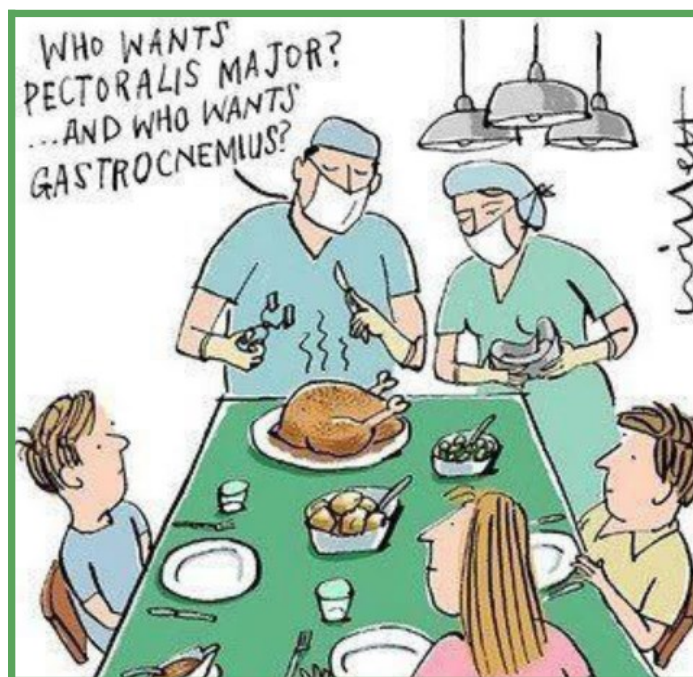
Nope. No tears.
Instead,
I thank my dad.

He taught me
To clean fish--
A job guaranteed to cure
squeamishness--
And
He taught me
To cut up poultry.

He was a doctor,
And I hear his voice
Still.
His lessons included
Words like
Femur, pelvis, cartilage,
ligament
And sever.
Not everyone learns Poultry
Dissection from their dad,
But I did.

I will be victorious
In this contest
Between
The Dead Fowl and
Me.
I always am.
My inheritance
Includes a great deal of
Persistence
Along with the ability
To look a dead fish
Or turkey
In the guts
And not flinch.

For all of this, I am
Thankful.



SQUASH

Jerry Winchell



There's a certain joy that comes from obsessions in the garden. One of my "joys" (or obsessions, if you will) is large productive and tasty squash.

No—not zucchini (though it does sort of qualify.) I like winter squash. Living at 1000' elevation as we do, maturing big babies like Hubbard or even butternut can be a problem. We have short growing seasons and comparatively cool and dry summers so

The battle plan was as follows:

Sprout seed early (March)

Yes, you must harden off the plants before they hit the garden.

Yes, you must be careful not to disturb the roots when you transplant...

2. Plant after last frost and use row cover to heat up soil

3. Increase the nitrogen—squash are heavy feeders.

The most impressive crop I had were

planted on the outer edge of the horse manure pile!!

4. Cultivate deep—roots love it.

5. Give them enough water. Those 90°F days are killers and may need more than 1"/sq'/week.

6. (Praise God the deer haven't found the squash yet.)

Results: Largest Hubbard was 37 lbs.

Largest Banana was 19 lbs.

All told we got 30 squash—Want some? And it's soooo good!

Next year:

I may place clear plastic on the beds several weeks before planting to warm up the soil

Be more obsessive regarding scheduling every 2 weeks—doses of organic fish fertilizer.

Get another 2500 gallon rain water collection tank to get us by the hotter drier summers.

Don't forget to turn off the irrigation pump and dump a whole tank at once!! My bad!

Good luck and good eating!



SQUASHAHOLIC UPDATE!

Jerry Winchell

Musquee de Maroc

Hi—Suqashaholic here!

Just an update on the new trial variety from Baker Creek Seed Company. It's called Muskee de Maroc."

It's a North African drought tolerant, heat loving, and prolific winter squash that I wrote about earlier. It is now producing 15-23 lb. lunkers that are knobs and bumps all over. We're curing some now or I'd give you a taste update. Some significant notes:

Prolific—two plants produced about 24 squash and it would be more if the season was longer!

Late production... They grew ravenously and spread early. They put on fruit that grew

late, but quickly once begun.

Their marriage with the old trailer and the blueberry bushes was unexpected and less than ideal. Plant away from civilization!!

The thicket was from TWO PLANTS!

Drought tolerant—they thrived all summer with *almost no watering*. AMAZING!

These love fertilizer—as an afterthought, I planted this in the area just beyond the edge of the horse manure pile!

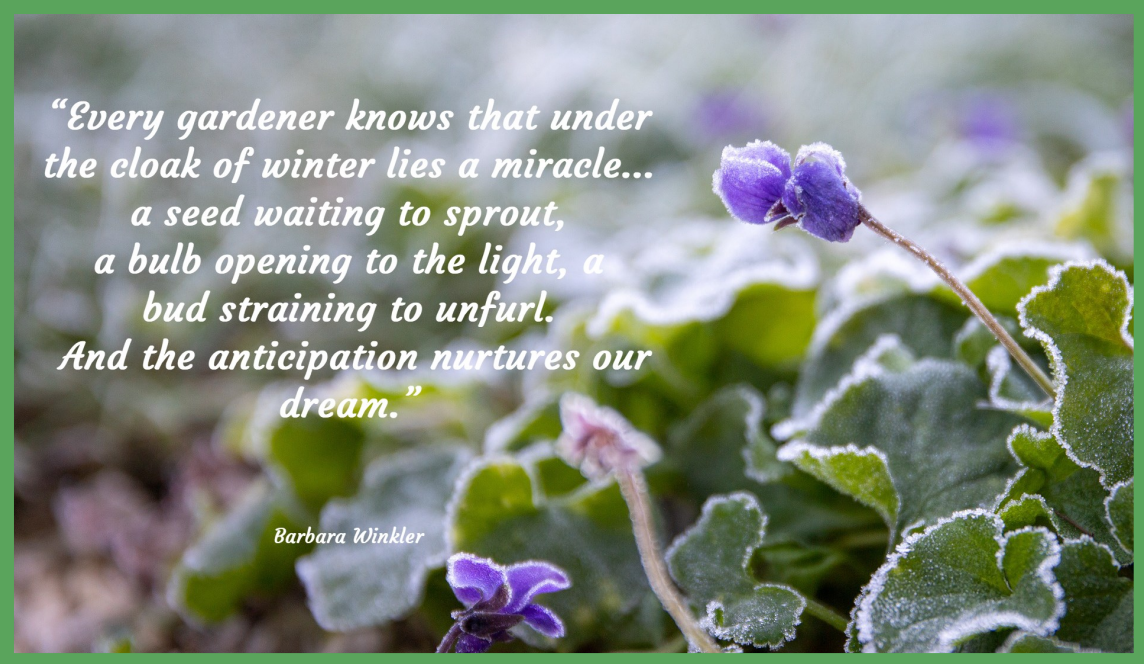
This one has promise, but all the facts aren't in yet. We'll soon see how it tastes, stores, freezes, etc.

Good luck!

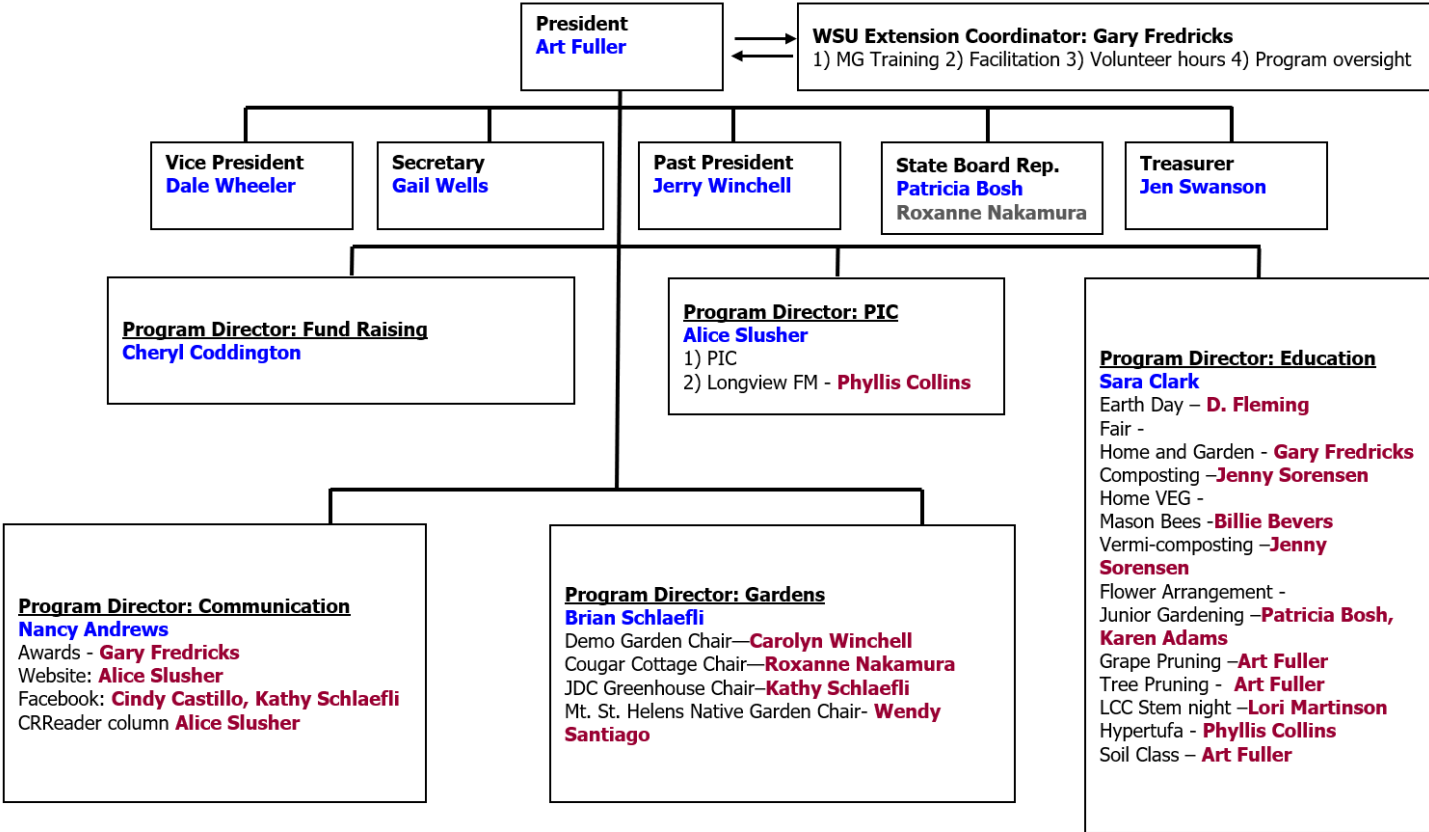


MEETING MINUTES

Annual Planning Meeting Minutes



Cowlitz County Master Gardener 2023 Foundation Board



Foundation Officer
Program Chair