



# Master Gardener Newsletter



WSU EXTENSION  
Cowlitz County

NOVEMBER 2022  
304 COWLITZ WAY,  
KELSO, WA 98626

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN

Gary Fredricks

### Ready, Set, Go!

*"The secret to getting ahead is getting started."* ~ Mark Twain

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### 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/)

### WSU Educational Pubs

<http://pubs.wsu.edu>

### WSU Cowlitz Co. MGs

[extension.wsu.edu/cowlitz/  
mg/](http://extension.wsu.edu/cowlitz/mg/)

### Master Gardener Founda- tion

[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.*

As we start a new year, I want to express thanks to each of you for the time you gave as a volunteer in 2022. To let you know that your service was very appreciated and valued by this community. This Washington State University Master Gardener program does not exist without all of you sharing your time and knowledge. You have created an awesome organization that is widely recognized and respected in Cowlitz County. Going into 2023, to be documented as a WSU volunteer and receive the privileges as a WSU MG, you need to do four things.

- 1) You must **fill out a renewal application** by February 1 to remain a WSU Master Gardener. Go on-line or fill out an application (ask me for one) and send it in.
- 2) **Do something!** There are so many ways to participate. Don't wait to be asked. Find a new project and say yes. Need help finding something, ask me! If you are always saying no because your too busy or feel uncomfortable, then perhaps MG is a not a priority in your life. The state asks for 25 hours per year to remain a WSU MG. **That's about two hours a month.** We are a service organization to help others. That only works if every member works together and gives of their time.
- 3) You need to **document your hours.** All volunteers with WSU Extension (not just Master Gardeners) must report their hours online to the state. If this month you attended the awards banquet, joined in a planning meeting, worked in the Demo Garden, or watched a WSU MG education class, then you have hours that should have been reported. Don't procrastinate. It doesn't take that long. Don't know how! Then let me know and we can work it out. The state does not recognize a person as a WSU volunteer if they are not reporting hours.
- 4) **Have fun!** Be excited and encourage others. Smile and enjoy the day. Say yes and lend a hand. Show up and participate. So many ways to appreciate this organization.

On a different note, WSU MG training is just getting started. Over 35 new trainees are looking forward to learning what you already know. They all have a positive attitude, eagerness to serve our community and a great love of gardening. I encourage you all to join us for MG training classes this year. When you attend, be sure to introduce yourself and get to know them. They are a wonderful group of trainees. Please encourage them to complete their apprenticeship and become certified WSU Master Gardeners. This is going to be an awesome experience and we are off to a great year.

# 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
- ◆ [Foundation news](#) Art Fuller
- ◆ [Celebration of Children](#) Patricia Bosh
- ◆ [In the news](#)
- ◆ [January-February Garden tasks: Pruning](#)  
Alice Slusher
- ◆ [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 February issue due February 14, 2023**

# Meetings & Event

## Foundation Meeting

February 14, 2023

10 am- ZOOM



MASTER  
GARDENER  
CALENDAR

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

[cowlitzcomg.com/public-events](http://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<br>10 am-<br>noon | 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

# Foundation Announcements

## Art Fuller (Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County, President)

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to a wonderful year of gardening. With every new year comes changes and this year has been no different.

My first one as President was finding out our foundation board was losing 2 veteran Master Gardeners that were key people to our greenhouse operation. I want to wish Fair Winds and Following Seas to Kathy and Brian Schlaefli and their new addition Gunther (German Shepard) as they move on to the next chapter of their lives. Brian was our Gardens Program Director and Kathy was our JDC Greenhouse chair. They were both instrumental to our program success and to our greenhouse operation. Recently, they decided on moving to Oregon to be closer to children and grandchildren. The Master Gardener organization will surely miss them all. Thank you for all you have done.

Fortunately, as people leave others step up. We had two volunteers that were just ecstatic about filling the Greenhouse chair position. We would like to welcome Connie Haas and Mardell Pettit who have volunteered to fill that position.



Connie Haas



Connie describes herself as a “Lifelong Gardener”. Her 1<sup>st</sup> gardening job was picking rocks for her grandmother as a toddler. Her grandmother paid her one cent per bucket! Thankfully, she has learned a couple things for over 40 years, married to Bob (a local boy) they have two children, two grandchildren and a border collie. Her college education was the University of Washington (French culture and language) and then Lynfield College, earning a degree in Accounting/Finance. Connie then ventured out to Steelscape LLC in Kalama to work in Finance/Accounting. She retired after 24 years as Credit Manager, responsible for \$500-600M per year in Collections/Accounts Receivable. Some of her passions besides gardening include travel, knitting, quilting and an avid reader.



# Foundation Announcements

Mardell is delighted and looking forward to be the new Greenhouse Chair for the MG program. She has been married to Dave for 41 years and a “NANA” to six grandchildren who have stolen her heart. Mardell is a labor and delivery nurse and a certified childbirth educator. Learning new skills and adventures are a true passion of hers and she considers herself an educational geek for sure. Mardell enjoys volunteering her time to Castle Rock Blooms and will continue to do so along with the MG program. She enjoys pulling weeds, pizza and sourdough bread, but maybe not in that order! Mardell is ready to get her hands dirty and dig in to the challenge of the Greenhouse Chair position.

**Mardell Pettit**



**Dale Wheeler**



**Dale Wheeler (Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County, Vice President):**

Dale was born and raised in northern Illinois and started gardening at an early age with guidance from both his grandmother and mother. For 10 years, he was in the local 4-H program and entered the vegetables he grew each year at the county fair. During the 1990’s, Dale lived in southeastern Wisconsin and had a productive vegetable garden, raising produce for his family. He enjoys walleye fishing in WI each spring. Dale has been married to his wife Marilou for 33 years and they have 3 children. After a 30-year career as a university chemistry professor, he retired in 2020 and moved from North Carolina to Cowlitz County, where he has a greenhouse and several garden beds. Dale became a Cowlitz County Master Gardener veteran in 2022.



# Foundation Announcements

## **Cheryl Coddington (Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County, Program Director, Fundraising):**

Cheryl was raised in Longview then moved to Tacoma for college. She then settled for a professional career as an Occupational Therapist. She retired in 2021 and bought a home in Longview to be near family. Cheryl and her husband fostered many children in their home over the years. She was widowed in 2017. While in the Tacoma area, they always had a garden in the glacial till. Gardening in the heavy clay in Longview makes her feel as if she had no gardening experience! Using her skills and talents for volunteering is important to her. Cheryl is the (volunteer) therapy coordinator for Passion Center for Children in Malawi, Africa, traveling there once a year to work with the handicapped children is something she looks forward to. She also enjoys reading historical fiction and a bit of quilting. Volunteering for master gardener activities and events has been a good way to get involved in the local community. Cheryl is excited to be the program director for Fund Raising and having an awesome team to work with on the annual Plant Sale.

**Cheryl Coddington**



**Sue Fardell**



Sue Fardell (Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County, Program Director, Gardens):

Sue has lived in the Longview area all her life and has been married to her wonderful husband, Tony Fardell for 30 years. Together they have five children and 6 grandchildren. Sue worked in manufacturing in her earlier years and was a dental assistant for a while. Being an avid golfer, she decided to join the board of the Longview Country Club. She has also been a member of the Longview Ski and Outdoor Club for approximately 29 years. Sue works in various church programs serving the community such as Lifehouse and Food for Change. Her new goals now are just loving being a Master Gardener and all that the program entails.



# Celebration of Children

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY !

The Cowlitz County Early Learning Coalition is organizing the 5th Celebration of Children Resource Fair. Their goal is to engage children and families in fun activities while learning about services and activities in our community that support children and families. Cowlitz County Master Gardeners have been involved every year by donating 500 colored copies of a MG created Washington State animal or plant info coloring page. This year we will provide the Washington State insect - the Green Darner Dragonfly. The coloring pages will be included in the pre-filled "Grab and Go" Activity bags. The bags will be given to children at their event on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

If two Master Gardeners will volunteer with me, we can also have a free table to talk to children about gardening and their parents about our plant sale on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>

Submitted by Patricia Bosh, Master Gardener

patriciabosh@comcast.net , 614-404-5257 (phone or text)

### WA State Insect Green Darner Dragonfly *Anax junius Drury*



Color this picture of the **Green Darner Dragonfly** using the colors from page



In 1997, the common green darner dragonfly, *Anax junius Drury*, became Washington's official state insect after a group of students at Crestwood Elementary School in Kent, WA brought the idea to the Legislature. Students from over 100 school districts statewide participated in the selection of the common green darner dragonfly.

AKA the "mosquito hawk," this insect is found throughout Washington. It is good for the ecosystem because it eats a large number of insect pests. It is easy to recognize by its bright green head and thorax, it has a four to six-inch wingspan and can fly 25 to 35 miles per hour.

There are over 400 different species of dragonflies. Dragonflies existed prior to the dinosaur age and some had up to a three-foot wing span. "Darner" is one family of dragonflies and the common green (*Anax junius*) was first sighted and recorded by a man named Drury in 1773.

The Green Darner dragonfly is an insect that lives near water and can be found all over North America. Each spring the Green Darner leave the southern US and Mexico and fly north for the summer. Each fall they return to the south for the winter.

They can't hear, smell or make sounds, but dragonflies have excellent eyesight. Each of their large eyes have 30,000 lenses.... Humans have one lens in each eye. If a dragonfly sees an insect it swoops down, snatches the insect and gulps it down while continuing to fly.

Dragonflies hatch from eggs. The eggs hatch into nymphs that live underwater for 1-3 years. Nymphs are carnivores so they hunt and eat underwater creatures. When it is time to metamorphose or transform into a dragonfly, a nymph crawls out of the water, sheds its nymph skin, pumps blood into its newly formed wings and flies off as an air-breathing insect, a dragonfly.



© MBC Graphics 2008



# LANDSCAPE PLANTS AND FRUIT TREES



What to do--  
and what NOT to do  
in January and February

## Landscape shrubs and trees

Prune deciduous landscape trees and shrubs (plants that lose their leaves and go dormant in winter). Here's a great **guide of what plants you can prune and when:** [https://portlandnursery.com/docs/trees/Pruning\\_Calendar.pdf](https://portlandnursery.com/docs/trees/Pruning_Calendar.pdf)

- WAIT to prune roses until after Forsythia bushes bloom—usually end of Feb.
- Do NOT prune spring flowering shrubs now—you will have significantly fewer flowers this season if you do! Watch for our pruning guidelines in later issues of “Looking Ahead.”
- WAIT to prune summer flowering shrubs until next month
- If the weather gets really cold, move potted plants into a sheltered area and protect roots from freezing.
- Transplant small shrubs and trees during January, February, and March Great time to plant new bare-root fruit trees—Here's how: <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2076/2017/06/C108-Planting-Bare-Root-Trees-15a.pdf> (See image to the right)
- Protect the south facing trunks of young trees with white latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water. This will help to protect against bark splitting due to fluctuating extremes of temperature from daytime hot sun on trunk to freezing temps at night.

[Pruning landscape plants](#)

## SUMMER BLOOMERS-PRUNE LATE WINTER



|                            |                                       |                                  |                                   |                                  |                                     |                         |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Abelia                     | Albizia-Mimosas as growth begins      | Aucuba                           | Callicarpa Beautyberry            | Camellia                         | Campsis-Trumpet Creeper             | Caryopteris-Bluebeard   |
| Ceanothus-California Lilac | Clerodendron-Glorybower before growth | Cistus-Rockrose                  | Cornus alba-Tatarian Dogwood      | Cotinus-Smoke Tree               | Evergreen ferns                     | Hamamelis-Witch Hazel   |
| Hibiscus-late spring       | Lavatera-Tree Mallow                  | Lavendula Lavender               | Leycesteria-Himalayan Honeysuckle | Lonicera nitida-Boat Honeysuckle | Ornamental grasses                  | Photinia                |
| Pinus-Pine when candling   | Pyracantha firethorn                  | Salix caprea-French Pussy Willow | Santolina                         | Spiraea                          | Trachelospermum-Confederate Jasmine | Buddleia-Butterfly Bush |



# LANDSCAPE PLANTS AND FRUIT TREES

What to do--  
and what NOT to do  
in January and February

## SPRING BLOOMERS-PRUNE AFTER FLOWERING

|                             |                              |   |                                |  |                                   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Akebia                      | Azalea                       | Weigela<br>Wisteria                     | Choisya--<br>Mexican<br>Orange | Daphne   | Deutzia                           |
| Elaeagnus-<br>Russian Olive | Silverberry                  | Escallonia                              | Euphorbia-<br>Spurge           | Forsythia  | Helianthemum-<br>Sunrose          |
| Hibiscus                    | Hydrangea                    | Jasminum-Jasmine                        | Kerria                         | Kolkwitzia Beauty<br>bush                        | Lonicera japonica-<br>Honeysuckle |
| Magnolia                    | Mahonia<br>- Oregon<br>Grape | Passiflora-<br>Passionflower            | Philadelphus-<br>Mock Orange   | Pieris   | Rhododendron                      |
| Ribes-Currant               | Rosemar<br>y                 | Schizophragma-<br>Climbing<br>Hydrangea | Syringa-Lilac                  | Viburnum-has<br>specific pruning<br>requirements |                                   |

### Fruit Trees—Prune in January-February while dormant (no new growth yet)

- If you are unsure of how to prune, See OSU's great publication [Training and Pruning Your home Orchard](#)
- Art is pruning workshops [online at noon on Jan. 31](#), and [in person on Feb. 4 at 10 am](#), and you can [see the video and handouts from his previous workshops](#) here.
- Apples and pears—Here's how: [Pruning Apple and Pear Trees video](#)
- Plums—Here's how: [How to Prune Plums video](#)
- Peach/nectarines: [Pruning Peach Trees](#) (read this first) and [video](#)
  - Cherry—Wait until August to prune to help avoid bacterial infection.
  - Sweet Cherries don't do well in western WA (rain cracking, fungal rots, bacterial canker). See [EB 0937 Fruit Handbook for Western Washington: Varieties & Culture](#)





# Foundation Meeting Minutes January 10, 2023

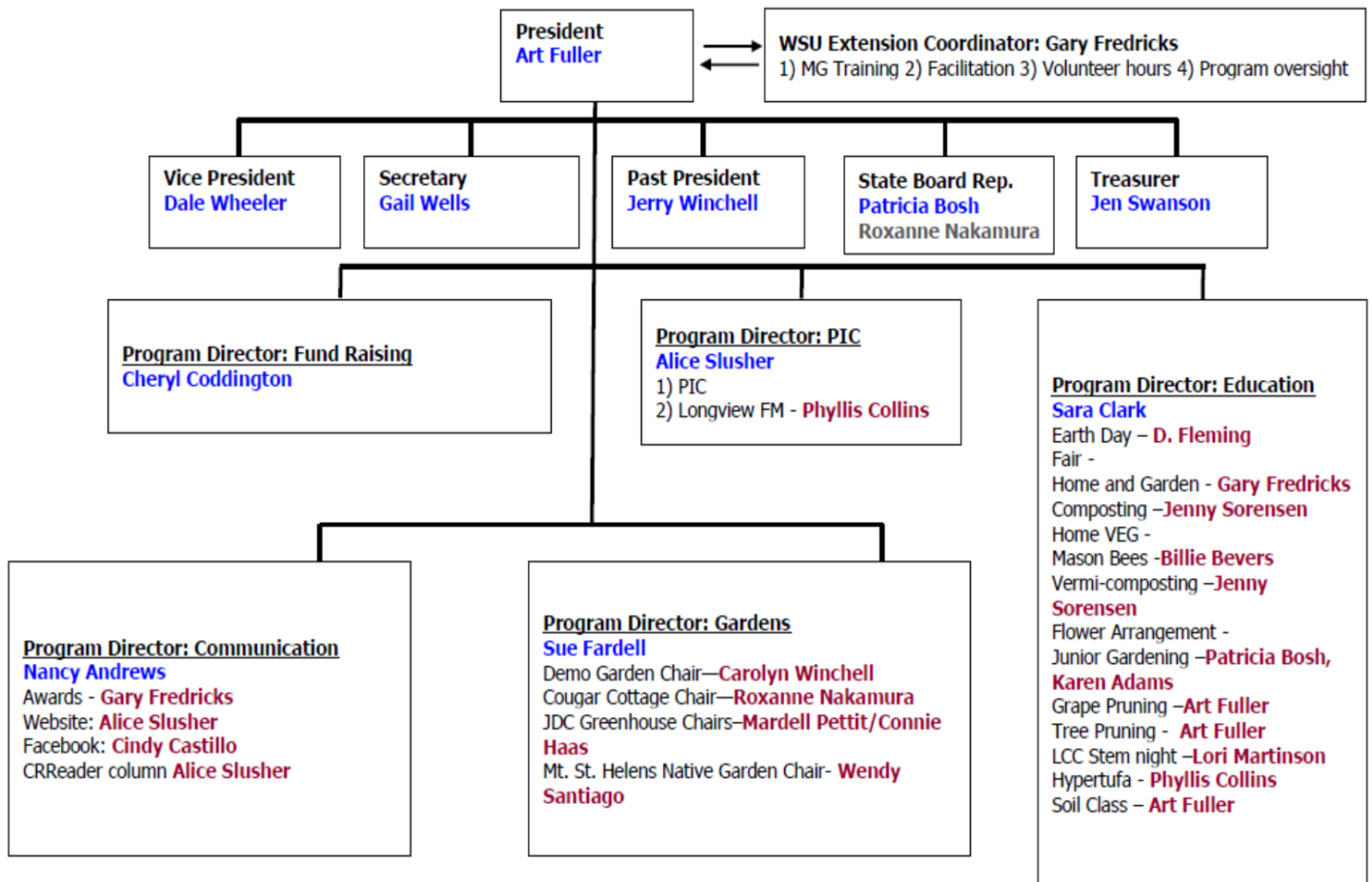
"WHAT GOOD IS THE WARMTH OF SUMMER, WITHOUT THE COLD OF WINTER TO GIVE IT SWEETNESS."

- John Steinbeck

**What is the difference between the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program and the Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County. Here's the answer!**

<https://www.cowlitzcomg.com/mg-foundation-explanation>

## Cowlitz County Master Gardener 2023 Foundation Board



Foundation Officer  
Program Chair

