



# Master Gardener Newsletter



WSU EXTENSION  
Cowlitz County

APRIL 2023  
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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.*

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN *Gary Fredricks*

Not More Paperwork!

*I am brilliant at not doing paperwork. I could teach a degree in procrastination. - Adrian Lester*

Paperwork! Argh! We all hate to fill out paperwork. If you have ever bought anything through the bank, there is always an endless number of forms that must be signed. Unfortunately, the Master Gardener program is no different. While we have paperwork that must be filled out, we have tried to keep it to a minimum. We really need you to report your hours. **Why?**

There is no doubt that the MG's provide outstanding service to our community. While the focus is on service, it is hours that are used to measure and report activity. Those that fund WSU Extension (Cowlitz County, State and National) have a right to 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 generates an action statement outlining the positive results of MG volunteer efforts.

Reporting hours is required by the State Attorney General. As a MG, you are protected from liability when giving out researched based recommendations. If you have not reported any hours, then the state does not recognize you as a WSU volunteer and you are not covered.

We have 115 volunteers with 57 of them reporting hours so far this year. **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. 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. If it is confusing, stop by the office and I will have you show me on my computer the problem and we will work it out. It was confusing for me when I first got on and thanks to those at WSU that worked with me; I was able to work it out.

**I've been busy.** I can appreciate how hectic life gets. The on-line program once you learn it really is easy and allows you to report hours at your convenience anytime. Logging your hours daily will keep it much simpler.

**I just don't want to do it.** I appreciate that you want to volunteer to serve others, but don't want to mess with paperwork. I will do all I can to make it an easy process, but you must report hours. We need your help on this. **Those not logging any hours will not be considered to be MG in good standing in 2024.**

Thank you for the service you give this community. So many people benefit from all the work that each of you does.

# 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
- ◆ [Plant Sale update](#) Cheryl Coddington
- ◆ [Greenhouse News](#) Connie H. & Mardell P.
- ◆ [MGs reporting: Creating Pollinator Habitat](#)
- ◆ [Call for Supplies](#)
- ◆ [MGs reporting: Least Toxic Pesticides](#)
- ◆ [MGs reporting: Laughing Babies](#)
- ◆ [MGs reporting: Earn an Award Pin](#)
- ◆ [Get Ready to Raffle!](#)
- ◆ [Foundation Mtg. Minutes](#)

Log your Volunteer Hours



[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 May issue due May 20, 2023**

# Meetings & Event

## Foundation Meeting

June 13, 2023

10 am- ZOOM

No meeting in May



MASTER  
GARDENER  
CALENDAR

## Upcoming Workshops

(Tues. 12 pm on Zoom unless otherwise noted)

May 2	Inviting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects	Alice S.
May 9	Composting	Gary F.
May 16	Vertical Gardening	Marilee H.
May 16	LIVE 5:30 pm Longview Public Library, Saving Seeds: Planning to Save	Alice S.
May 23	Moles	Sara C.
May 30	Tomatoes	Alice S.

Master Gardener  
**Directory**

On members' page of website

# Foundation Announcements

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

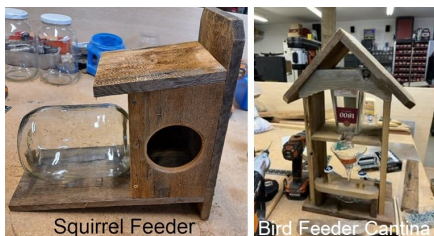
### Craft Team a Concept Put into Motion

I certified many years ago as a Master Gardener. I had the unique opportunity of seeing how other counties programs operate. You get to see a lot of successes and failures. So, when you see successes, you realize the volunteers in your county have a talent to put these successes into motion. After seeing counties selling crafts at their plant sales and throughout the year it was a no brainer to do the same in Cowlitz. The craft group for the Master Gardeners of Cowlitz County started last year and the group has grown by leaps and bounds.

This year's group has the following volunteers: Mark Atkinson, Rashelle Beal's husband Eric, Patricia Bosh's husband Gerry, Rae Davenport's husband Bill, Kate Martin's husband Frank, Doug Moffett, Alice Slusher, Jenny Sorensen, Jennifer Swanson and husband John, Craig Wells and Jerry Winchell. The craft team concept comes with hurdles such as, a cost of materials and the most important piece, a volunteer's time. Luckily the volunteer's time was easily obtained due to the fascination of building and how fun it is working with others.

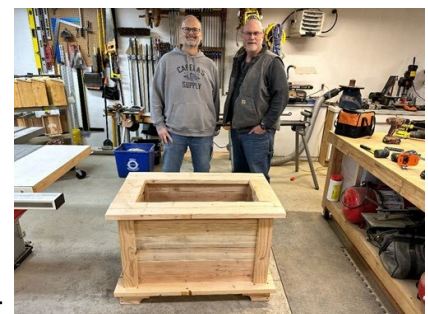
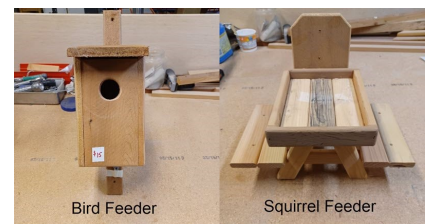
The other important ingredient was the good-heartedness of our volunteers that donated materials. Many thanks to the following: Patricia and Gerry Bosh, Rashelle and Eric Beal, Rae and Bill Davenport, Rhonda and Mike Dowling, Kate and Frank Martin, Yvonne Martineau, Doug Moffett, Alice and Lloyd Slusher, Jenny and Carl Sorensen, Gail and Craig Wells, Vickie and Logan Williams, Jerry and Carolyn Winchell and Jane and Rick Yahmarkt. We had one commercial store donate scrap lumber, the Chehalis Home Depot.

**13 May 2023 Plant Sale will have a great display of crafts and raffle items.**



Crafts will include the following crafts but not all inclusive: Cantina Style Bird Feeders, Mason Bee Boxes, Squirrel Feeders with Jars and Picnic Tables, Bat Boxes (Double Chamber (Female)), Bat Boxes (Single Chamber (Male)), Bird Houses (Finch, Robin, Chickadee and Wren), Small Planter Boxes, Cutting Boards, Shepard Hook Plant Hangers, Metal Plant Signs, Worm Tea Bags, Walking Sticks, Grape Vine Wreaths, Row Cover. Raffle items will include a well-designed sturdy Planter Box, Wilco \$50 gift card and wagon.

A little about the planter box and how it came into play. I was at another plant sale a few years back and saw a great raffle item that was built by another group and how well it faired at their sale. Last year one of our great Master Gardener volunteers, Alice Slusher, said she had some new trellises donated to her and wanted to sell them last year at our plant sale. I asked her if she wouldn't mind if I took them home with me because, I had a perfect plan on what to use them for. So, she agreed and donated them to our craft group. I approached the builder of the planter box that I saw at the plant sale and asked him if he had any plans for the item. He stated yes, he did and gave me a copy. After I got the plans, I made some significant changes to the design and called on Mark Atkinson a Master Gardener Trainee and Eric Beal a Master Gardener Trainee's husband, to see if they would be interested in coming up to my shop and build the planter box. We got together on a rainy Saturday and started the construction of our first craft group raffle item. After many modifications and much head scratching the planter box took form. When completed it turned out much better than we expected. We will be waiting with bated breath to see how this item fairs at our 13 May 2023, Plant Sale.





# A word from our Plant Sale Chair

## Cheryl Coddington

**Our 2023 Master Gardener Plant Sale is almost here!**

In the next few days when you drive southbound on Nichols Blvd you will see our beautiful banner advertising the Sale. There will also be signs on the doors/windows of several businesses in the area. Feel free to pick up some flyers to hand out to your friends and neighbors so Building 13 at the Fairgrounds will be THE place to be May 13.



Thank you to all who have already placed their name on a Sign-Up to help with the Sale. There are still plenty of opportunities for YOU to be involved so don't hesitate to get your name on a Sign-Up! Remember you may also bring a spouse, helpful teenager or friend to help too, just be certain they have signed a Release for the time they will be helping out.

### **Pre-Sale to MG trainee/interns/veterans.**

Friday May 14 between 12-2 pm you may purchase up to 5 plants at a discounted price! The discounted price will not include hanging baskets. Please plan to choose a variety of plants, as we would hate to have most of one variety be sold out before we open to the public. These are the only hours this pricing will be available. Please bring your own box if possible to carry your plants from the building. CASH ONLY



**We are hopeful to have many hands participate the week of May 8-14 from set-up to clean-up.**

Be on the look out for those sign-ups and choose one task, or many tasks if you are able, over the next several weeks to make this our most successful Sale to date. (And remember that the hours you spend volunteering count toward your annual requirement too.)

Watch for Signup volunteer activities on our [MG Calendar](#) or the Members section of our [website](#). Look for the new annual Password for our members-only section on a recent weekly update email. You will also find it in this month's Foundation meeting



# MGs reporting: Greenhouse News



Our Greenhouse Managers (and plant mamas), Connie Haas and Mardell Pettit have been doing a great job nurturing our little seedlings as they move from tiny sprigs to our signature large, green healthy tomato and pepper plants.



See how they grow!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/wp74kZsBPKaVudd5A>

## Greenhouse Watering & Monitoring Teams

How we'll roll:

- [Daily checklist for watering and pest monitoring at Greenhouse](#)
- [Greenhouse hygiene and pest monitoring guide](#)
- [Greenhouse watering guide](#)





# MGs reporting: Creating a Pollinator Habitat

The buzz these days is all about protecting our pollinators. How can you help these insect helpers that are so vital to our food supply and pest control in our gardens?

To make your landscape appealing to a broad range of pollinators, including bees and the pest-fighting squad (insect predators and parasitoids), plant more flowers, trees, and shrubs—a mix with native plants is best. Make sure you grow them in places that suit their requirements. You might even consider replacing some of your lawn with pollinator attracting beds. Large groupings are better than many small planting areas and try to have at least three species of plants that are



My pollinator garden late summer



Pollinator garden early summer

in continuous bloom from spring through fall to create an all-season buffet. You can also deadhead some flowers to rebloom, too, to extend their flowering. Black-eyed Susan, Shasta Daisy, Cosmos, gayfeather, sunflowers, candytuft, catnip, anise hyssop, and flat-topped flowers like yarrow and cilantro are good choices for pollinators. My absolute favorite, sweet alyssum, attracts the tiny, non-stinging parasitoid wasps that are great aphid-killers and blooms from early summer through frost. While those fancy hybrid flowers with double and triple petals are gorgeous, they are an empty plate for the pollinators, who waste too much time and energy trying to find the pollen! They need water, too, and a pebble-filled shallow bowl is perfect. Make sure you add water on those hot, dry summer days.





## MGs reporting: Creating a Pollinator Habitat (continued)



**Tolerate some messy areas--great habitat for ground nesting bees, and protection for lady beetles, ground beetles and other beneficial insects**

Have some messy spaces around your gardens. Now you have an excuse for those leaves you didn't rake up and the pile of branches in the back of your property! Patches of bare soil or areas with sparsely planted native clump grasses are great places for ground-nesting bees to live. Mason bees need mud to create their nesting rooms; our wet clay mud is perfect. Mason, leafcutter, and carpenter bees all like to make nests in hollow or pithy stems. So, when you're doing your fall cleanup, leave about 6-18 inches of stems in the garden. Raspberries, grape vines, elderberry, milkweed, and Sedum Autumn Joy are good examples.

The most essential part of creating a place where our pollinators will be welcome is limiting or eliminating the use of pesticides. The good news is that these good insects can control pests. I haven't had to use even a "safe" pesticide in my garden since I upgraded their habitat space. Remember, pesticides kill beneficial insects along with pests!

Here are some basic rules—go into your planting beds daily and catch problems early. Squishing pests, drowning them in a bucket of water, or knocking them off the plant with a strong spray of water will often do the job. If a plant consistently attracts pests, consider removing it. Don't spray if you don't have to; never spray anything, including fungicides, when plants are in bloom. Never use a pesticide labeled "systemic" because the entire plant becomes an insect killer, including the flowers.



**Look who overwintered under Jane Yahrmarkt's scruffy looking sword ferns!**



# MGs reporting: Creating a Pollinator Habitat (continued)

Learn to tolerate some cosmetic blemishes—no garden is perfect! If you've weighed your decision carefully and chosen to use a pesticide, use the gentlest, least toxic choice, and spot spray only. BT products for caterpillar pests and insecticidal soap are good choices. Lots of folks like neem oil but be sure to choose one that does not contain azadirachtin as the active ingredient—it will kill insects but also acts as a repellent. Most important—read the label. It includes application directions to minimize harm to humans, pollinators, and the environment.

This just covers the basics. If you'd like more information and inspiration, including plant lists, bloom times, and landscape designs, OSU has an amazing free publication. [Enhancing Urban and Suburban Landscapes to Protect Pollinators](#).

Have a buzzy growing season this year!

Pollinator Garden Designs

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/supplemental/em9289/pollinatorgardendesigns062020.pdf>

Common Natural Enemies of Nursery Crops and Garden Pests in the PNW (excellent pocket guide)

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/ec1613.pdf>

Beneficial Insects Spiders Creatures in Garden <http://pubs.cahnrs.wsu.edu/publications/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/publications/em067e.pdf>

Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden-what to plant

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw550.pdf>

## Call for Supplies



HAVE FEED BAGS??

Office Assistant, Stephanie, could use your help in gathering empty feed bags. She and her daughters repurpose the donated feed bags into day-to-day bags, like the one pictured here. Save those empty plastic feed bags (from chicken, duck, goat, rabbit, horse, dog, cat, etc.) and drop them by the office.





# MGs reporting: Least Toxic Pesticides

## Choosing the best options to manage garden pests.

### Five steps of IPM:

1. Identify the pest (bring to Plant and Insect Clinic)
2. Understand its life cycle and behavior patterns.
3. Monitor activity.
4. Determine damage threshold—how much damage can you tolerate-no garden is perfect!
5. Implement control measures—barriers, squish spray off with water, repellants, and last resort-pesticides (and continue monitoring)

\*\*The use of chemicals, whether organic or synthetic, is the LAST RESORT! Use pesticides only if all other control methods fail, and only after you've weighed the benefits against the possible harm to beneficial insects. Consider removing a plant that constantly attracts pests or disease.

## Organic Pesticides-Least to most toxic to beneficial insects

### IMPORTANT:

- \*\*NEVER spray a pesticide (including fungicides or herbicides) on a plant that's flowering!
- \*\*DO NOT use systemic pesticides—they make every part of the plant toxic, including the flowers
- \*\*READ THE LABELS!!!

- ◇ **Bt** -kills butterfly and moth larvae (caterpillars)--little or no toxicity to any other organism.
- ◇ **Diatomaceous Earth** --If bees or beneficial insects are seen crawling on leaf or stem surfaces with recently applied DE, spray clean water to wash away the DE. Take care to avoid creating clouds of DE dust during application.
- ◇ **Horticultural oils** (smothers--needs complete coverage)
- ◇ **Neem Oil**--Check active ingredients--No azadirachtin (smothers--needs complete coverage)
- ◇ **Azadirachtin** (Derived from neem tree but is not neem oil) (Repellent and insecticide—**apply at night**-insect must ingest)
- ◇ **Insecticidal Soap** - Potassium salts of fatty acids (Contact spray-needs complete coverage—is NOT preventive)
- ◇ **Spinosad** - E.g., Entrust, Success, Regard, Bonide Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew R-T-U; **apply at night** (most effective when larvae ingest it)
- ◇ **Boric Acid** - ants (Ingest)
- ◇ **Pyrethrin** - highly toxic contact neurotoxin--apply at night.



# MGs reporting: Least Toxic Pesticides (continued)

## Synthetic pesticides-ALL highly toxic to bees

Acetamiprid	Esfenvalerate
Acephate	Cyhalothrins
Bifenthrin	Malathion
Carbaryl (E.g., Sevin)	Permethrin
Cyfluthrin	Imidacloprid

## Rules of thumb

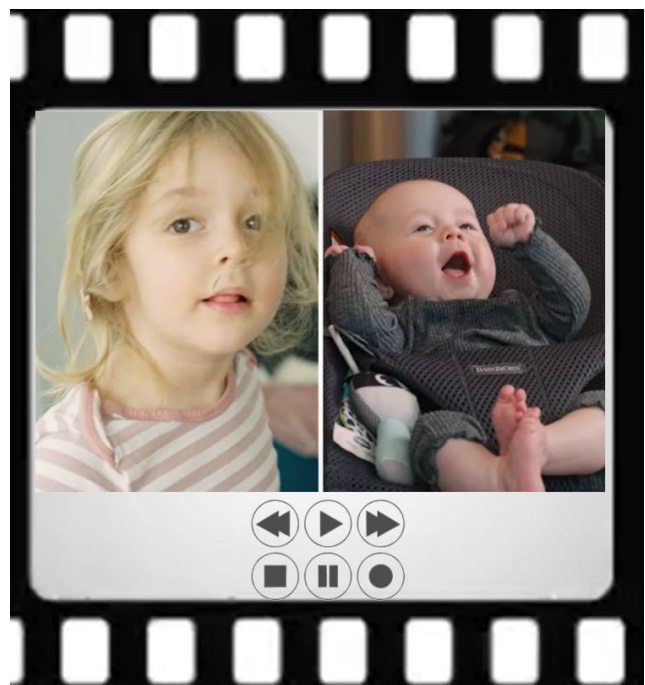
- Follow the label instructions carefully. This includes applying the correct concentration of the pesticide, choosing appropriate weather conditions, and targeting the correct part of the plant.
- Do not apply a product where it could run into ponds, creeks, or other water supplies and contaminate drinking water and kill wildlife.
- Don't spray on a windy day.
- Never pour pesticides or other lawn and garden products down the drain.

# MG reporting: Laughing Babies

## Jen Swanson: Laughing Babies

Do you need something to make you smile today? This is a brief video talking about why babies laugh. It was aired on CNN, and, among other laughing babies, it features Jen Swanson's grandbabies. Madison is the little girl telling the pickle joke, then we see Ada, one of the twins, then Kim (Mom). Matilda is probably one of the giggling littles at around 1:13. This video will bring a smile to your face! <https://www.cnn.com/videos/health/2023/03/16/babies-laughter-benefits-children-meaning-lbb-orig.cnn>

The video will open in a new window.














# MG Reporting: Earn an Award Pin!

## Award Pins for MG Volunteer Hours

Given on an annual basis.

	<p>Award for volunteering 25 or more hours in any of the Demonstration Gardens, including the Demo Garden and Cougar Cottage Garden at the Fairgrounds, Mt. St. Helens Native Plant Garden, or at our Greenhouse (E.g., planting, potting, watering, monitoring, grounds). Log hours on GivePulse in the Demonstration Gardens category.</p>
	<p>Award for volunteering 25 or more hours in Plant and Insect Clinic activities, including in-Clinic service at the Extension Office, the Longview Farmers Market booth, or a learning activity sponsored by the Plant and Insect Clinic, such as the monthly "Lunch 'n Learn" activity. Log hours on GivePulse in the Plant Clinic category.</p>
	<p>Award for giving 2 presentations or 2 newsletter articles, or a combination of the two. Log hours on GivePulse in the Other Educational Delivery category.</p>
	<p>Award for volunteering 25 or more hours in youth outreach activities. Log hours on GivePulse in the Youth Outreach category.</p>
	<p>Busy Bee Award for volunteering 100 or more hours. This can be from any category (except Continuing Ed or MG Training categories) on GivePulse.</p>
	<p>Award is given to MGs and Interns nominated for Master Gardener/Intern of the Year.</p>
	<p>Award is given to the active Foundation President.</p>
	<p>Presidential Volunteer Service award (gold level). This award recognizes individuals who volunteer 500 or more hundreds of hours of service in their community. The President of the United States presents this civil award that was instituted by George W. Bush through an executive order .</p>
	<p>Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award. This is a one-time honor given to volunteers who contribute 4,000 hours of service. They receive the Lifetime Achievement award pin and a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States.</p>



# Get Ready to Raffle!



## GET READY TO RAFFLE AT THE AEC CONFERENCE



It's time once again to gather interesting items to contribute to the annual AEC conference raffle. We rely on the generosity of each and every foundation to contribute five items to this important fundraising event. 100% of the money raised goes directly to the following year's conference. In an effort to raise the most possible money, this year we are going to select the most valuable donated items and create a limited selection in a silent auction.

It's time to start collecting the five contributions from your foundation.

Popular items in past raffles have been gift baskets with an assortment of garden related items, gift certificates to statewide store chains, a holiday stay in a vacation home, wine and handmade crafts. Contributions can be lightly used, if they are in perfect condition.

Patricia Bosh and Roxanne Nakamura, your MGFWS Board Representatives will take Cowlitz Co.'s contributions to the Marriott for the AEC.

If you have items to donate, good ideas or questions, please call Patricia 614-404-5257 or Roxanne 360-601-1779.

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### REMINDER:

If you would like to use the Extension Office Conference Room, you must reserve it ahead of time with the administrative assistant, Stephanie.

The MGs are only one of the Extension groups that use the room. Thanks!





# Foundation Meeting Minutes April 11, 2023



## Cowlitz County Master Gardener 2023 Foundation Board

