

April 2018

Cowlitz County

1946 Third Avenue, Longview WA 98632

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN: Why yes, I can help!



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WSU Gardening Websites

<http://mastergardener.wsu.edu>
<http://gardening.wsu.edu>
<http://gardening.wsu.edu/eastside>
<http://cowlitz.wsu.edu>

HortSense Fact Sheets

<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/>

PestSense Fact Sheets

<http://pestsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/>

Pest Leaflet Series

[https://puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/pls/
resources/pls-res.html](https://puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/pls/resources/pls-res.html)

WSU Educational Materials

<http://pubs.wsu.edu>

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Prepared by: Melanie Wannamaker

Contributors: Gary Fredricks, Misty “Mo” Mottice, Billie Bevers, Alice Slusher, Jo Beckett, Sara Pursley, Jo Tuom

By Gary Fredricks

Spring is here and while not every day is sunny, weather is getting warmer. When the sun is out, it is hard not to want to be busy. We all have weeds that need to be dug out, new plants to put in, and even some spring cleaning of the garage. Once the work is done, it is nice to look back with satisfaction on what you’ve accomplished.

For MG volunteers, many of you have been busy with projects. Events to mention include: Earth Day, Mason Bee workshop, Home and Garden Show, Home VEG raised beds, monthly MG Foundation programs, Victory Garden Project, and more. The work at the Demonstration garden continues. The plant and insect clinic is very busy with all kinds of problems being brought in to diagnose.

If you haven’t participated in an event yet, don’t wait! There are still plenty of options. Options include:

- Help with the Floral Show during Fair
- Help with the Farmer’s market booth (2 and 4 Saturdays)
- Maintain a garden bed in Demonstration Garden
- Help at the Plant and Insect Clinic
- Research a topic and write an article for the newsletter
- Teach gardening to students from Loowit High School
- Speak to garden club or community group
- Develop and organize a community gardening project
- Help at Earth Day
- Mentor a new trainee
- Attend a class on gardening
- Help organize the LCC STEM night
- Assist with fall workshops and activities
- Assist with a youth training event
- Attend a MG Foundation Board meeting

We are a community service organization. If you haven’t done anything yet, please volunteer and serve. If you don’t know who to talk to, call me or a MG Foundation board member and they will connect you with the person in charge. Don’t wait, your help is needed now. May the sun brighten your path and your weeds be all washed away during a downpour.

Cooperating agencies: Washington State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Cowlitz County. WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

Announcements



Lower Columbia College and the WSU Cowlitz Master Gardeners are pleased to announce a great lecture series!

- April 28th - Attracting Birds and Pollinators to your Garden 9am-12pm
- May 5th - Perennials and Roses: Bringing Beauty to your Landscape and Table 9am-12pm
- May 10th - Growing Herbs: Top Ten 6-8pm
- June 2nd - Drying and Preserving 12pm
- June 7th - Cooking with Herbs and Spices 6-8pm
- June 16th - Creating with Herbs 9am-12pm

For prices/registration, call **360-442-2840** or visit the school's website at <https://www.campusce.net/lcc/category/category.aspx?C=&S=4>

Classes are open to all community members. Previous attendance at LCC is not necessary.



Meetings & Events

Tomato Repotting Party – April 18th

10am – 11:30am @ Behind Floral Building, Cowlitz County Fairgrounds in Longview

Junior Gardener Program Mtg. – April 18th

2pm - 3pm @ WSU Extension Office
1946 3rd Ave, Longview

Rock Painting Party – April 19th

6:30pm – 7:30pm @ CCTC 1942 1st Ave, Longview

Mt. St. Helens Visitor Center – Apr 20th

Planting @ 9am - 12pm @ 3029 Spirit Lake Hwy, Castle Rock

Drip Irrigation – How to – Apr 24th

6pm - 7pm @ Expo Center, Cowlitz Co. Fairgrounds in Longview

Earth Day Celebration – April 28th

9:30am – 3:30pm @ Expo Center, Cowlitz Co. Fairgrounds in Longview

MG Foundation Mtg. – May 8th

10am – 11:30am @ WSU Extension Office
1946 3rd Ave, Longview

- 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-

Melanie Wannamaker

symphonic.soil@gmail.com

Plant Sale 2018

Hi Folks,

We are within 6 weeks of the plant sale, so there is a lot of information.

We have ANOTHER 1,000 4 inch pots from Tsugawa Nursery in back of WSU.

Don't forget the plant sale meeting this Friday. We will be talking about what to plant, when to plant it, and what jobs will need to be done on what days during the plant sale. We will also take a "field trip" over to the Floral Building to see what the space looks like and how the setup will be with the tables.

A potting party will be held at the side of the Floral Building for plants that have reached the true leaf stage and need to be separated into 4 inch pots. I will be picking up a load of soil, we have pots and labels at WSU, water available, and we will be under cover on the patio if it rains. The potted plants (I'm assuming mostly tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants) will be taken to the demo garden greenhouse in trays. The potting party will be April 18th, starting at 10:00am. Anyone who wants to help gather pots, labels, trays, and pencils from WSU let me know. Tomatoes need to be "deep planted" so I will give a short demo on how and why that is done.

The greenhouse, hopefully, will have the water turned on. Alice is setting up a doodle for signup to schedule watering the plants. If you can't sign up with doodle, but want to help out, send me an email.

For those of you who have tomato, pepper, tomatillo, or eggplants that have reached true leaf stage (Yea! they're going to make it), send me the name and I will work up the flyer that goes with that variety. I'm sending an example of what it will look like. I have over 100 already made up, so there is a good chance it's already done.

I know I probably have left something out, so let me know if you have any questions.

Next Plant Sale Meeting – April 27th!

For more information on upcoming events please visit the MG Calendar:

https://teamup.com/kseaaf848d1_5584493/

Gardening Tips from our Local Master Gardeners

What piece of gardening advice would you give a new gardener? This month's advice is...

"When planting a tomato, put some egg shells in the bottom of your hole. This will give the plant enough calcium to prevent blossom end rot."

- Sara Pursley

"Tomatillos are easy to grow and they make wonderful salsa, but you will need two if them if you want the husks to fill with fruit. They need to cross pollinate and although they are distantly related to tomatoes, they will not cross pollinate with them."

<https://www.rodalorganiclife.com/garden/backyard-guide-raising-tomatillos>

-Billie Bevers



Look for more MG garden tips next month!



Looking Forward: Learning and Innovation

-Written by Misty "Mo" Mottice

"Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow." -William Pollard

Innovating Thoughts Brought to Life

We often find ourselves formulating habits, repeating the same actions without thought because it's easy and comfortable. However, as the old adage says, doing what you've always done will only get you what you've always gotten. Change is hard, but it is necessary in order to grow and remain impactful in the right way. Taking advantage of opportunities to creatively rethink our processes and ideas will dramatically improve our organization, and thus our community outreach.

This year, a new award is being introduced to the Master Gardeners for **Innovation**. What this entails is bringing forth a new idea, method or program that discovers and produces improvement in a positive direction, empowering you to be involved in making our organization better for tomorrow than it was yesterday.

Any Master Gardener that meets the following qualifications can be nominated by a peer to be considered for this award:

Elevate: lifts up and impacts the community in a positive manner that sustains a long-term ripple effect and a vision for the future

Electrify: create a new opportunity (program, class, method, idea, device, etc) that stimulates a new path for the program

Evolve: targets a need and provides a creative and effective solution that makes things easier for all;
Game Changer

Evaluate: optimize resources for a balanced input/output (cost v. benefit) with quantifiable & trackable results

More information will be forthcoming as the awards committee finalizes details in the next meeting. Stay Tuned!



Demo Garden Parties

Calling all Master Gardeners! Please join us for our **"Garden Work (and Play!) Parties"** every Wednesday at noon. Work with a team of people to show the love for your Demonstration and Cougar Cottage Gardens.

Come join a Team!



Demonstration Garden Transformation Underway

- Jo Beckett

After several planning meetings, Demo Garden Teams, led by veterans LaDonna Slack, Natalie East, Melissa Wilkie, Phyllis Hull and interns, Mary Williams and Kathryn Badda, are in full swing, transforming the gardens into plots we can be proud to show off to everyone. We are having fun cleaning up, pruning, weeding, planting, composting, feeding worms, starting grape cuttings, transplanting and the list goes on.

Our small on-site greenhouse, while not 100% functional, but can be repaired, is available for Team Members to raise seedlings or small plants for use in the demonstration garden beds or plant sale. You are encouraged to make use of the greenhouse to experiment.

Billie Bevers put on a Ten-minute University course several weeks ago in our Demo Garden and showed us a great way to start seeds. We can use this info to start seeds for the Demo Gardens, for the Plant Sale and for our personal use. Thanks Billie!

Announcing: The Master Gardener Potluck, date to be announced, will be in the Demo Garden this coming June from 6-7:30pm, Plan for the three "F's" – Food, Flowers and Fun!

Thank all of our wonderful team members who meet Wednesdays from noon to 2pm, or any other time they want to plant in the garden.

Bug Bytes *Dispelling Common Garden Myths*

-Alice Slusher

When I was growing up, my grandfather taught me everything I knew about gardening. I mean, he heard it from his father, so it must be true, right? As it turns out, that's not always the case, and good research has demonstrated that some of our most deeply rooted (pun intended) garden beliefs are just groundless folklore.

So what are some of these common myths that are so ingrained in many of us that common wisdom says it must be true?

Here is my favorite, and one I hated to stop believing because it seemed to make so much sense. Granddad always told me that you should never water your plants when the sun was shining because it acts like a magnifying glass and burns the tender leaves. Well, that's just not true. Think about how you feel when you get out of a swimming pool on a hot day. The water cools your skin, and research has shown that it works the same way with plants. However, you should avoid overhead



watering as much as possible because wet leaves, especially bushy, crowded plants with poor air circulation, are susceptible to fungal leaf spot and other diseases. . For more information, check out what our own Linda Chalker-Scott (AKA WSU Garden Professor) has to say about it: <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/leaf-scorch.pdf>

Another one that I firmly believed in until just recently was that you shouldn't use pine/fir needles or fresh wood chips as a mulch because it adds more acidity to our already acidic PNW soil. I had also heard that using them would steal nitrogen from the soil. Well, neither of those things are true. According to good research, any acidification or nitrogen competition occurs only in the first centimeter or so of soil, and that's not where we plant our garden seeds. In fact, the only thing these organic mulches do deter is weed seeds, which opportunistically land on top of the soil to germinate! The pretty, finely shredded mulch we like to decorate our landscape with is really terrible for our plants because it rapidly mats down and creates a water barrier that prevents efficient watering. The same holds true for a layer of cardboard or the much-trusted black landscape fabric: water and air can't penetrate properly, and you set yourself up for plant problems. One warning, though, and this applies to any kind of mulch—never do “volcano mulching,” piling mulch up around the base of a tree



or plant. This can create a problem with abnormal root growth and provides an ideal environment for pests to hide out and damage your plant. If you want the absolutely best mulch, use arborist wood chips—and they're free! The Longview Parks Department will dump a load for free at your home if you live within the city limits. If, like me, you live outside of Longview, you can call the Parks department and make an appointment to go there and fill up your buckets, trailers, or trucks with this amazing free organic material. For more information, check out what our own Linda Chalker-Scott (AKA WSU Garden Professor) has to say about it:

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/wood-chips.pdf>

How many of you believe that you must add stones or shells to the bottom of a flower pot to improve drainage? I believed that until I was convinced otherwise by a demonstration. You can try it yourself with a transparent pot or plastic glass. Poke drain holes in both of the glasses. Put a handful of stones in one of them, then fill them both with potting soil. Pour water in and watch what happens. I didn't believe it until I saw it. Water flows freely through the glass full of soil only. In the other glass, the water reaches the stones and creates a bottleneck. The same thing happens when you put sand at the bottom of a planting hole, thinking that you're improving draining. So skip that extra step with the added stones—your plant's roots will thank you for it. More potted plants are killed from over-watering than under-watering. Roots can literally drown when they sit in soggy soil. For more information see: <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/container-drainage.pdf>

This brings me to another common practice that I can't seem to break my husband from doing. When he plants a new tree, shrub, or plant, he digs the hole and wants to give the plant a "good start" by backfilling the hole with a handful of fertilizer and fresh, quality topsoil. Not a great idea: when this happens, the tree or plant only wants to grow its roots in the "good stuff" and won't try too hard to spread its hungry little roots out into the native soil in our yard. This makes for a tree with a very weak inadequate, root system. The only thing that should go in a planting hole is the plant, water, and the soil you dug to make the hole!
<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/soil-amendments.pdf>

So that's my first installment of bursting the garden practice bubbles we've believed our entire lives. I have a few more to share with you another time. Meanwhile, as the garden season is moving into high gear, there is a great free resource for any of your plant, pest, or garden problems. Call or visit our WSU Extension Master Gardener Plant and Insect Clinic: 360-577-3014, 1946 3rd Ave. Longview on MWF 9 am – noon. We'll work with you to figure out a solution!

Spring Garden

V D O A K S H C Q Z B L S S Y
 O E K W H X Z W A T N N G L A
 L M N F I C D V K O Y E G A D
 U O Q O U L V Y I V R V G I H
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 R E K F D L Y B Q H N U D F Q
 G R E E N H O U S E N Y O S N

BIRDS
 CELEBRATION
 DEMONSTRATION
 EARTHDAY
 GARDEN
 GERMINATION
 GREENHOUSE
 IRRIGATION
 LANDSCAPE
 MULCH
 PERENNIALS
 POLLINATORS
 SEEDS
 VOLUNTEER
 WOODCHIPS



**COWLITZ COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Feb 13, 2018**

Attendees: Mo Mottice, Jo Tuom, Gary Fredricks, Erin Chambers, Patricia Bosh, Phyllis MacNichol-Collins, Jo Beckett, Melissa Wilkie, Joe Long, Lori Martinson, Roxanne Nakamura, and Billie Bevers

Call to Order 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Minutes/ Jo Tuom:

Motion: Billie moved to approve January's corrected minutes.

Second: Patricia

Motion approved

Treasurers Report / Erin Chambers-Carey (Co-Rep/Past President Billie Bevers): Reviewed the Treasurer Report handout.

The December 2017 and January 2018 Red Canoe Credit Union statements were received and reconciled.

Income Categories:

- Dues for 2018
- MG Donations
- MG Class Training
- Corporate Contribution/Donation: Kroger/Fred Meyer
- Fund Raising/Plant Sale

Expenses:

- Overhead/Events: Christmas Potluck
- Outreach/Education: Projector, 4yr pp
- Outreach/Education: Mason Bee Class
- Fund Raising/Plant Sale Soil & Plant stakes
- Garden/Cougar Cottage Zinnia Seeds

Motion: Patricia moved to increase the education budget to cover the cost of a replacement lamp for the new projector.

Second: Billie

Motion Approved

Also included in the report: QuickBooks P & L Standard and Detailed, Budget/Expense.

State Representative Report/Patricia Bosh (Co-Rep/Jo Tuom): Reviewed the Foundation of Washington State Report.

- Next board meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2018 in Everett Washington

Cowlitz Extension Director's Report/Gary Fredricks: Review the WSU Director Extension report from Gary.

1. **MG Training 2018 update:** This is a great group of trainees although they are experiencing computer problems accessing course materials online. This is a WSU problem and Gary has brought it to their attention. To give the new trainees the sense of what happens at a Foundation Board meeting Mo has scheduled a mock Foundation Board meeting to take place during the afternoon training session on March 16 at 1:00 p.m.

2. **Use of ladders by MG:** Master Gardeners should not use ladders without proper training. Mo, Billie, Melissa and Patricia will meet to develop guidelines for ladder use. A training on how to keep fruit trees small was suggested.
3. **Home Veg Management (Team for mentors & use PIC)** Gary has received lots of applications for this program. He is requesting 5 volunteers to mentor the applicants. It was suggested that he include the new trainees for this request.
4. **Annual Application:** There is now a minimum yearly requirement to remain an active Master Gardener. This requirement comprises of 25 total hours (5 of which are from continuing education).
Currently there are 108 MG, however 27 have not completed the required form to continue for 2018.
5. **Donation:** A W.S.U. extension director from a different county in Washington State received a monetary donation to be shared with MG programs in other counties. This director contacted Gary offering a \$500 donation. This donation is designated to support the demo gardens and to cover the purchase of a new projector.
6. **Fred Meyer Fundraiser:** It was suggested to encourage MG trainees to sign-up for the Fred Meyer fundraiser. A reminder will be placed in our upcoming newsletter with a link to the site.

Fund Raising/ Melissa Wilkie W(Co-Rep/) No Report

Melissa and Claudia are discussing the possibility of writing a grant to cover the cost of development and implementation of our website, as well as covering the expenditures of our annual budget. This would free up funds to begin an endowment for our Cowlitz County Master Gardeners Foundation.

Plant Sale: Billie would like to:

- Screen donated plants for those listed on the invasive species list.
- Label plants that are on the aggressive grow list. Billie requested that we offer a class on invasive plants. This discussion was tabled for another time.
- There are plenty of pots both plastic and biodegradable for use and soil is also available.

The leftover plants from our plant sale can be donated to the Cowlitz County jail or the Loowit Garden.

Plant and Insect Clinic/ Joe Long (Co-Rep/ Alice Slusher) PIC report.

This was an unusually warm January causing an early start to plant development and the most PIC activity in the past seven years.

- New trainees are coming to the PIC for training on clinic procedures.
- There were 8 customers in January which is more than usual. It feels like outreach is working.
- Alice and Joe have organized the MG Advanced Training Workshop for March 17 at LCC.

Communications/ Alice Slusher (Co-Rep/ Melanie Applebury) Review the Communications Report

- It was asked if anyone was attending the Chamber of Commerce functions.
- Kathy Schlaefli has been managing the MG Facebook account. A new trainee, Cindy Castillo, has offered to assist Kathy with this responsibility. We can now upload photos to our FB page.
- Alice asked us to use the MG logo on all projects to help identify who we are to the public.
- To eliminate the need for receipts there are printed envelopes available in the WSU office to manage cash/checks.
- There is a change to the voucher system. Purchase requests need to be cleared and signed off by the program director. There is an electronic copy in the works and will be up and running soon. This change does not affect requests for reimbursements.

*****Photos: Please upload any photos you have from any MG events you've attended.*****

Gardens/ Jo Beckett (Co-Rep/ Jolene Erdahl): Reviewed report

Demo Garden:

- There was a planning meeting on January 24th at LCC to restructure the Demo Garden use with 18 people attending. The focus of this meeting was on "What is a Demo Garden" and how we want to move our Demo Garden plans forward.
- The second meeting was held on January 31st and discussion was about:
 - Vision for the demonstration gardens
 - Dividing the Demo Gardens & Cougar Cottage into 6 sections lead by team leaders and team members.
 - Sign-ups occurred at the meeting and leaders were determined.
 - An inventory of the Demo Garden & Cougar Cottage was read.
- The first garden party was scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2018 from noon to 2:00 p.m. where 11 volunteers attended.
- It was decided that demo work parties should be held weekly on Wednesdays from noon to 2:00 p.m. The focus is on getting ready for the county fair in July and prep for Art in the Demo Gardens in October.
- Mo talked to Gary about getting the maintenance department to repair the chain link fence, limb the big fir trees, and provide paint for touching up Cougar Cottage.
- Intern Bob Overholt talked to Parks and Rec. and they dumped a fresh load of wood chips at Cougar Cottage. He also did some tree pruning.

Cougar Cottage:

- Team #6 headed by Jon will take on the Back to Eden garden.
- Team #5 will take care of the remainder of the flower beds with Melissa and Jo who have plans to make a cottage garden drive entrance.

3 Rivers Green House Project: Billie continues to work negotiating an agreement with Three Rivers Christian School to use their green house for the next 4 years in exchange for Master Gardener support and training.

- The plastic for the green house cover has not yet arrived. Nancy and Jim Chenault have agreed to lead the plastic installation on the greenhouse.
- Master Gardeners have worked with 9th graders on pruning fruit trees and supervised the removal of limbs by 6th graders.

Loowit Garden: Carla Coffey

- Students have been pruning, cleaning up the garden and starting seeds.
- If anyone has garden tools they can donate it would be appreciated. (hand trowels etc.)

Education/ (Co-Rep/TBD):

- We need somebody to take over the responsibilities of Education Director.

Earth Day: Earth Day is scheduled for April 28, 2018. They held their first planning meeting Feb. 12 where they reviewed/shared Earth Day activities for children.

Old Business:

Insurance: Mo and Patricia are researching the coverage of insurance policies from other counties.

Passports Update: A copy of the passports was shared and are ready for print.

New Business:

Bylaws: Billie, Alice, Mo, Melissa, Patricia, Lucy and possibly Natalie have volunteered to serve on the bylaws committee.

LCC Agreement: Mo shared the proposed Memorandum of Understanding agreement between the Master Gardeners and Lower Community College. This agreement will allow a partnership between MG and LCC to provide gardening related training to the area served by LCC (Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties).

Meeting adjourned: 11:35

Please remember to send electronic copies of your reports and handouts to Jo Tuom for future meetings.