

MASTER GARDENER Gazette

A JOINT QUARTERLY
 NEWSLETTER

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In the new year, I am reminded of a poem I heard a long time ago that talks about the crocus plant. A crocus is the first flower to peek its head out of the snow and knows the promise of spring. The crocus symbolizes rebirth and a never-ending cycle of life. It signifies the arrival of spring, the promise of new beginnings and exciting new events. Crocuses are one of the first flowers to emerge after winter and have been known to bloom surrounded by snow.

I think we, as Master Gardeners, are like crocus plants. In the quiet of winter, we prepare our gardens and begin planning for the coming of spring. We plan for new projects at the Education Garden and elsewhere and volunteer our time to learn and grow at the Whidbey Gardening Workshop. We “grow” the next generation of Master Gardeners by helping at school gardens throughout Island County. And we continue to contribute a variety of plants to be sold at the Plant Sale.



You might want to foster the growth of this newsletter by volunteering to help with writing an article or taking pictures at events. So even though it seems nothing is going on in winter, together we are busy creating the promise of spring!

Carol Ann Leonessa, Editor, Master Gardener Gazette,
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Master Gardeners celebrating at the annual Holiday potluck and raffle

Beauty, Bounty and Benefit at the Whidbey Gardening Workshop

Cathy Lofton-Day, WGW Chair

Over its 33 years as a gardening event, the Whidbey Gardening Workshop has evolved on many dimensions. From its beginnings as a small, local gathering, the Workshop now attracts gardeners from all over Washington state, and beyond. The pandemic forced us to cancel the Workshop in 2020, but thanks to the resourcefulness of Master Gardener volunteers, we returned in 2021 with a successful online event. Even more innovation was introduced in 2022, with a hybrid event that gave attendees the choice of attending in person or via webinar. Again, we had outstanding effort by Master Gardeners and high attendance from the community.

For the 34th annual workshop, our Master Gardener volunteers have once again planned an exciting and fun program of interest for everyone, from beginners through experienced gardeners. The 2023 Workshop will be held March 3-4 and will explore the theme of “Gardening with Purpose: Beauty, Bounty and Benefit.” Our keynote speaker, Donna Balzer, will share her journey to gardening success in the Pacific Northwest and how learning in a changing and challenging environment expands and grows a gardener’s skillset.



Cathy Lofton-Day and Jim Peskuric keep everyone in check in 2022

Online classes proved to be very popular the last two years and resulted in expanded participation by attendees in locations way beyond northwest Washington. We will continue online availability in 2023 through livestreaming selected classes, including the keynote. The new concept of “Themed Sessions” will also be introduced, in which three instructors present different concepts around a central topic followed by a combined Q & A.

The popular Marketplace will be back and teeming with exciting exhibits, plants, and garden art. Hands-on classes, tours, and demonstrations (Practical Sessions) will once again be held as part of the Workshop on Friday, March 3.

It's no surprise that the workshop takes a lot of planning and hard work, and it would not be possible without the many talented volunteers who make everything happen. Right after the current year’s event is held, we start working on the next year’s program: planning curriculum, identifying instructors, and developing new graphics and marketing plans. In the months before the workshop, volunteers get busy with marketing, website design and construction, food planning, applying for grants and finding sponsors, identifying vendors, planning decorations, and searching for raffle donations.

The day before and day of the event, volunteers set up the Workshop. Once the event begins, volunteers check in participants, host classes, provide food for instructors, vendors, and volunteers, teach classes, work in the bookstore, staff the raffle table, and clean up at the end of the day. All of this tremendous work takes place through your efforts – the Master Gardener volunteers of Island County.



Registration wizards Janet Richards and Paul Rowe

Be part of the fun! Please be on the lookout for emails about volunteering through GivePulse for various workshop tasks. Join the fun while bringing horticultural education to our community – this is truly an event that we can all be proud of. Contact this year’s workshop chair if you have questions or need help in signing up (Cathy Lofton-Day, icmgf.wgw@gmail.com). For more information about the workshop, visit the [WGW website](#).

Get Inspired and Energized for the Plant Sale

Raissa DeArmond, Plant Sale Chair

Another year, another upcoming plant sale! Those of you who were involved when we first started twenty-five years ago have seen a lot of innovation. In addition to having a combined in-person and online sale last year, we expanded to Camano Island, furthering our mission to better represent all of Island County. This year will see us with a fully in-person sale and further support for the Camano location.

Another innovation last year was the implementation of mini-classes, taught by Master Gardeners in the new presentation space at the Education Garden. Even with strong chilling winds and frigid drizzles, the seminars were enjoyed by those who braved the elements for knowledge. We hope to introduce more ways this year to increase foot traffic through the Education Garden, such as signage on plants for sale that might be seen *in situ* in the garden itself for inspiration.

Our sale always has a wide variety of plants to browse, from ornamental grasses to natives to groundcovers to an impressive selection of beautiful tomato plants that usually occupies several tables all on its own. Early birds might even score something a bit more exotic, such as a “Flying Dragon” thorny hardy orange shrub, a young rhododendron in full bloom, or a lovely hanging petunia basket bursting with color ready to welcome the approaching summer.

The greenhouse at the Education Garden has been instrumental for propagating plants for the plant sale. Spring will find the welcoming space packed with young geraniums, myriad veggie starts, nasturtiums with their tiny lily-pad leaves, and petunias settling into their baskets, in addition to delicate house plants.

Help us create a lush and enticing sale by contributing a large and varied selection of plants. You can help in several ways, matching your abilities, experience, and resources. If you have perennials that need to be divided soon, consider donating a few to the sale. Some plants like strawberries reproduce by runners and often sprout many more than one actually wants in their berry bed. Snip a few off the parent plant and pin them into a 4” pot.

Plant a few extra for the sale. Some plants are extremely reliable to start from seed, like sunflowers, nasturtiums, squash, and calendula. If you’re planning

to grow some for your own garden, we’d appreciate even a handful of pots set aside for the plant sale!

Many shrubs can be rooted fairly reliably from cuttings. If you’d like to experiment with this propagation technique or if you’re already a seasoned pro, go ahead and take a few for us. Potting soil and pots are available at the Education Garden in Greenbank. Just make sure that the plants you’re propagating are not on the [noxious weed list](#), and if they’re particularly “vigorous” (read: invasive), be sure to mark that when you send information for printing the plant tags.

Email if you have questions about a particular plant’s desirability, icmgf.plantsale@gmail.com. With all offerings, detailed information about its variety or appearance is appreciated. “Iris, color unknown” is far less appealing to shoppers than “Bearded Iris, purple with yellow center.” For some wonderful videos on propagation, visit the [Expert Gardeners Present](#) page of the Foundation website.



Every year, thousands of plants grown by Master Gardeners are donated to the plant sale, as well as crafts and decor donated for the Garden Art section. If it were not for the generous spirit that characterizes Master Gardeners, either in the free distribution of information and expertise or in the literal fruits of our labors, our gardening communities would be much poorer.

The annual plant sale gives a consistent opportunity for Island County residents to not only get some great deals on lovingly raised plants, but also to get in touch with our program and the many resources we provide. Our support only touches as many people as know about it, so let’s continue reaching out to our communities and showing them what we can provide!

Dave Thomas Celebrates 40 Years of Master Gardening

Interview with Dave, by Amy Rosenthal

Along a side road north of Oak Harbor, there are fields of sunflowers and dahlias of every color that bloom across three seasons. For over a decade, I bought bouquets at the flower stand in front, not knowing about the secret garden that was tucked behind. The “Lord’s Garden” provides nearly 30 types of fruits, vegetables, and herbs to food banks, food kitchens, and low-income community members of the island. The produce had a monetary value of over \$10,000 this year, and a priceless nutritional and emotional value to those who received what might be their only fresh food during the year.



Dave receives his 40-year certificate from Loren

The garden is privately funded by an anonymous benefactor with a few hundred dollars a year. But the soul of the garden belongs to Dave Thomas. Better known as Farmer Dave to the junior Master Gardeners that he mentors, Dave operates the garden and can be seen tinkering and improving upon it daily. He moved this garden to his property in 1998 after a series of unforeseen events.

The garden started at another location around 1987 in a field across from the Navy Outlying Field. It moved after another few years to a field on Golf Course Road. Walt Bankowski recalls bringing his daughter Marina to the garden. She was still crawling and decided her best route was over the rows of newly planted carrots. She flattened the rows as Dave looked on. He later said those mushed carrots turned out to be the best ones.

A large group of dedicated volunteers worked the land. They had some good tools and machinery in a run-down shed, a porta-potty, and a well that ran dry by mid-summer. The land was terrible. It was sandy, lacked phosphorus, and refused to hold water. It also had chloride poisoning. The berries were good, but much of the food looked horrendous. The shed was falling over and one night the porta-potty was torched. Dave and

Walt flooded the corn field one year with a firehose full of holes, subsequently flooding the other crops and emptying the well. Someone was siphoning gas from the tractor, then a volunteer had a mishap with it when he decided to take it for a joy ride.

Dave decided it was finally time to move the garden to his property. He had the shed cut in half with chain saws and trucked out to the new garden. Volunteers built a fence to keep the deer out. Volunteers began to dwindle, so he started potlucks after working the garden. This inevitably started a great social network that exists to this day.

All this started in 1982. Dave was fresh off his Navy retirement, bored and looking for more adventure, when he spotted an ad in the local paper advertising WSU Extension courses in Master Gardening. He wanted to propel his gardening expertise and immediately signed up for the course in Marysville. There were two other people from the island, and in no time, they had set up what later became the Island Chapter of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Association. Dave was a board member by default and later became the president.

Their first event was the Island County Fair. They cultivated 50 famous weeds from the Pacific Northwest (yes, weeds!). The team had scoured the island for the weeds and cultivated them for months in five-gallon pots on Dave’s property. They won Best of Show and it took Dave years to get rid of all the tansy ragwort on his property. It may have made a comeback this year.

Dave joked that his greatest accomplishment as President was establishing term limits, though he may not have been kidding. He said his goal was to not wear out the volunteers as they are people of action and he wanted to keep them. During his tenure, he booked the yacht club in Oak Harbor and persuaded university professors and field experts to teach Master Gardener courses ranging from soil and water health to pests and bugs. The event sold out and people sailed in from all over the islands. That became the start of the Whidbey Gardening Workshop. It also solidified the importance of continuing education for the program and the start of its treasury.

Dave states that his life has been about learning, and then bragging about your learning (teaching). He teaches us every day we go to the garden. Picking cucumbers on a row next to me this summer, he came over with a bulbous and crooked piece. I had a lesson in

water and mineral deficiencies in plants. When we picked apples later in the fall, he grabbed a small misshapen bunch of them, and I had a lesson in the woolly apple aphid. Teaching is part of who he is and is weaved into every aspect of the garden in a natural and unhurried way. He is humble, shies from the spotlight, and eagerly shares every tidbit of knowledge with no pretense.



As I log every hour waiting to get out of intern status, Dave jokes that he never reports his hours, driving Loren crazy. I laughed and told him that if he reported his hours no one would believe him. He spends countless hours in the garden while we are not there - planning and laying out crop rotation, ordering and starting seeds, laying down then picking up the water lines, having bulk fertilizer delivered, acquiring cardboard for weed suppression, and more that we don't see. It's a full-time job going back over 24 years.

Dave still has his eye to the future of gardening. We chat about carbon sequestration in the soil and zero tilling and about how the more we learn, the more we can adapt and do better. He tells me that Master Gardeners are an education force. He lives the life he talks about, hosting the junior Master Gardeners every summer in the garden, imparting as much wisdom as they can absorb.

So why garden? Dave says it "keeps me off of the streets and out of the bars." It's clear that Dave loves being outside and cultivating beauty in something alive. He loves to teach and host gatherings where we laugh until the sun goes down. As I leave the house, he shows me the math homework that he reviews with his granddaughter Mary Jane every morning before school. It is the new math, and I can't wrap my brain around it. But Dave is learning it to help Mary Jane. And that is exactly what he does every day in the garden with us: Learn, so you can teach. Thank you, Dave, for your 40 years as a Master Gardener!

From the Program Coordinator

Happy New Year and Happy 50th Birthday to the Extension Master Gardener Program! In 1973, Extension agents in King and Pierce Counties saw rapid urban growth and increased public interest in gardening. This demand led them to [pioneer a new way](#) to deliver gardening education by "teaching the teachers" who would volunteer to freely share their science-based knowledge. The seed for the Master Gardener program was planted.



From an initial class of 200 individuals, the Master Gardener program has grown to over 85,000 volunteers throughout the United States, with over 4,000 people in Washington State volunteering over 300,000 hours. In Island County, you gave over 5,000 hours in 2022!

Fifty years later, the mission of the WSU Extension Master Gardener program is essentially the same as when it began: "Engaging university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain diverse communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education."

This will be a year to [celebrate the milestone](#) and recognize and show appreciation for you, our volunteers, who make a difference in the communities we serve. There will be several special events around the state, including at the Mount Vernon Research and Extension Center in July.

An especially exciting focus of the celebration will be to kick off a campaign to establish the first ever endowed faculty chair fully dedicated to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. This position will help create tools that support volunteer outreach, develop and strengthen curricula, and elevate the Master Gardener Program within the University and beyond.

The campaign will follow the model of other WSU faculty positions that are funded by endowments. Contributions can be small or large. If you are interested in helping to create a lasting impact on the long-term success of the Master Gardener program or would like to learn more, visit the [WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Endowment page](#).

Thank you for all the work you do to advance our program goals and I look forward to seeing you on Camano and Whidbey Islands in the New Year!

Happy gardening!
Loren Imes, Program Coordinator

Meet Our Newest Master Gardeners

Amy Noel, Camano Island

Class of 2022

I took the Home Horticulture Class in 2021 and decided to continue on to get my Master Gardener Certification this year. My



main objective for learning more about gardening was to be able to care for our large perennial garden on Camano Island. I have enjoyed meeting fellow gardeners, helping at plant clinics, and working on the web team for the Whidbey Gardening Workshop.

Sandy Penland, Langley

Class of 2022



What gardening means to me has always been an easy question to answer. The garden is a place of joy, creativity and beauty – a place where I can stretch my mind and my muscles. To my surprise, my very great surprise, the Master Gardener program has changed the gardening experience for me. What

was once a solitary, heartfelt and private endeavor has broadened, perhaps blossomed into work with a sense of community responsibility. It begins with the choice of a plant. Can it survive with only small amounts of precious water? Does it need more sun than my garden can provide thus requiring extra fertilizer? Composting kitchen scraps has long been a way to enrich my soil, but now my sense of responsibility to the community believes it doesn't belong in a landfill. Teaching neighbors about how our bioswale functions is not just a way to make friends (and gain a few intern hours), but a contribution to the quality of water on our island.

In short, these activities are not a matter of choice for me now. My gardening is guided by a sense of mission and responsibility and the knowledge that everything that goes into the soil impacts not just my garden but the entire community.

Carol Russo, Clinton

Class of 2022

I guess you can blame Covid for my becoming a Master Gardener. I have gardened most of my life – on the East Coast, the Midwest, the West Coast, and most



recently in the PNW – mostly trees, shrubs, and flowers. When Covid hit in 2020, I decided to start a vegetable garden. It started out as a plot about 8' x 12' and ended up a year later as four raised beds in a 16' x 16' fenced area. Unfortunately, my previous gardening experience did not prepare me well for vegetable gardening.

I am a retired aerospace engineer, so I researched the internet and developed detailed spreadsheets for over a dozen vegetables that I wanted to grow. I quickly discovered that the internet is full of contradictory advice – ergo, I needed authoritative sources and a more solid foundation of knowledge. Fortunately, my cousin, Susan Wilcox, who was a Master Gardener in California, had recently moved to Whidbey Island and decided to apply to the Island County Master Gardener course which made it easy for me to decide to apply as well.

It has been a great class experience with Loren and Ilze, involving many other dedicated experts. Carole Matthews has been a wonderful mentor as well who introduced me to crevice gardening which has become a new passion. I have learned so much from both the class and the intern opportunities, but still consider myself a novice as there is so much more to learn. It is a pleasure sharing gardening experiences with new friends who share a passion for gardening in all forms.

Jennifer Wilson, Langley

Class of 2022

Sneaking into my mother's tomato patch and plucking vine-ripe tomatoes are my first garden memories. Somehow she always knew I'd been eating them (perhaps tomato dribbles down my shirt gave me away). Unwittingly I redeemed myself by collecting the biggest caterpillars I'd ever seen from the plants, only to spoil it by leaving the can on the kitchen table. When I brought mom to see my treasure, all of the hornworms had disappeared. Oh, well.



Vegetable gardens still move me. Preparing a meal from something just harvested brings me joy – especially this time of year when fresh is novel. I also find myself gravitating toward fruit trees – apples in particular. I am grateful for all of the things that I've learned and look forward to helping others be better gardeners and orchardists while improving my skill as well.

From the Education Garden

Winter is still an active season at the Education Garden at Greenbank. Wednesday work parties continue throughout the winter (9 am to 12 noon, weather permitting), but you can visit or volunteer at other times too. In this issue, we focus on two interesting areas of the Education Garden – the Native Plant Garden and the greenhouse.

Steve Stansberry first came up with the idea of a Native Plant Garden and several Master Gardeners designed it. The class of 2009, including Nancy Hindes, took on the hands-on work as an intern project. Nancy has been the garden lead for the last several years.

Winter is an excellent time to spend time in the Native Plant Garden. Nancy describes it as a quiet and more subtle time – a time of dormancy and underground life. Sword ferns and evergreen huckleberry provide attractive greenery. The shape of shrubs and deciduous trees is starkly revealed, giving you a good look at what needs pruning.

Winter also means we can look closely at bark, bud scars, and buds – all of which help identify a tree or shrub. Come view the beautiful specimens of Douglas fir, Western Red Cedar, and Sitka Spruce.



Join Nancy in the Native Plant Garden

Nancy's custom signs show details and a picture of each plant, so you can see what to expect even when the plant is dormant. There are so many different textures showing in winter, from plants such as the Pacific Coast Iris, ginger, sorrel, and the ferns.

You can also get involved in the Native Plant Garden!

Just show up and help, as there is always something to do. Please ask or email Nancy first to find out what needs doing. Nancy would be happy to have a co-lead in the garden or a dedicated team. Learn and enjoy during this peaceful, quiet winter season.

We now turn to the greenhouse. Barb Douglas is the greenhouse manager, working closely with Susan Dakis, and the two of them shared their wisdom from their experiences over the last couple of years.

The greenhouse has provided a versatile and useful year-round growing space. It maintains warmer temperatures in the summer, so you can grow vegetables that are ordinarily better suited for hotter climates. The growing season is extended at both ends by having a warmer growing space in early spring and late fall. And the greenhouse provides a perfect microclimate in the winter to keep plants sheltered from the cold, with the heat from sunny days carrying residual heat well into the night.

Climate control in a greenhouse is important. In the summer, fans and shade cloth over the top can be used to adjust for the hottest days. In the winter, use an electric heater or lights and heat mats. Some people put a hot compost bin in their greenhouse, or water tanks that carry heat through the night, or cloches over the plants.



Barb Douglas and Susan Dakis welcome you in to the greenhouse

Watering is done by hand, given the great variety of plants being grown in a small space, each with its own needs. Winter plants need less water since temperatures are lower and growth is slower. The dynamics of watering in a greenhouse are different from what you are familiar with outdoors, so don't fall prey to root rot from overwatering.

The greenhouse has been a prolific source of plants for the plant sale. Currently, more than 100 geraniums are being grown from cuttings. January also means starting seeds for vegetables and flowers. Barb has found that the best vegetables to grow in a greenhouse are peas, winter salad leaves, radishes, lettuce, spring onion, annual herbs, oriental greens, and leafy greens. Brassicas, root crops, and alliums also thrive, since they grow faster and potentially provide bigger yields.

You, too, can get involved in greenhouse activity!

If you are new to the Education Garden, call or email Barb or Susan to make a date to be shown around and learn about the processes and people involved. Practice your propagation skills and enjoy the special pleasure of working in a warm, bright space in the winter for year-round benefit from the therapeutic effects of gardening. As Susan notes: "It promotes joy!"

From the President

Happy New Year! May your 2023 be full of joy, bounty, and accomplishment, both inside and outside the garden.



This will be a year of getting back to the “new normal.” We start the new year with Zoom-only member meetings in January and February, and then continue the hybrid format at the Pacific Rim Institute with the March meeting. Why drive in ice, snow and darkness when we can join the first two meetings of the year with a cup of hot chocolate in our cozy living rooms?

Planning for the 2023 Whidbey Gardening Workshop and Plant Sale is going well, thanks to all of you who devote your precious time to these important events. Also this year, watch for more collaborative events like the Orca Recovery Day that we participated in last year.

Loren’s column reminds us of the history of the Master Gardener Program, which is celebrating its 50th birthday. What will the program look like in the next fifty years? Your guess is as good as mine, but there is no doubt that we all have it in our power to make a difference.

Speaking of “Make a Difference,” please let me know if you want to contribute to our *Whidbey Weekly* articles this year. Visit the [News section](#) of the Foundation website to see previous topics.

I want to thank our outgoing Foundation Board members – Barb Moore, Krista Hanson-Walker, and Paul McKenna – for their dedication and contribution to the Island County Master Gardener Foundation. Thanks to Barb for being our secretary and ICMGF historian. Thanks to Krista for corralling the north Whidbey contingent and setting up the Oak Harbor library connection. Thanks to Paul for your success in giving our relatively small county such a big footprint at the state level.

Welcome to incoming board members – Kim Baxter, Sally Howard, Sheri Gerhard, and Carole Matthews. I am certain that you will make your own individual contributions to our board and hope you will have fun doing so.

Thanks – *Jim Peskuric, ICMGF President*

Master Gardeners Around Island County

This column is a regular feature of the newsletter, highlighting key activities by our volunteers during the months since the previous issue. We depend on you to tell us what’s going on, so please contact Carol Ann Leonessa with news from around Island County.

Master Gardener volunteers at the Lord’s Garden grew, watered, weeded, and harvested over 2000 pounds of vegetables in 2022, including 4753 cucumbers! In all, 28 different types of vegetables, herbs, and fruits were donated to the Oak Harbor and Coupeville organizations that help put food on the tables of our neighbors in need.

Jim Peskuric wrote “Orca and Salmon Health Starts Uphill,” a Make a Difference column for the *Whidbey Weekly News* in its October 20-26 issue. The article highlights sustainable gardening practices that can be used in our yards to promote healthy soil, attract pollinators, conserve water, and keep toxins out of our waterways, thus helping to recover the Salish Sea orca population. See the [News page](#) on the Foundation website for links to this and other Make a Difference columns.

Master Gardener volunteers at the Coupeville Community Garden had a productive fall season, donating at least 75 pounds of produce to the Coupeville food bank. They also presented two educational sessions: Don Krafft on composting and Barb Douglas, Lisa Phillips, and Kim Baxter on sub-irrigating planters. Earlier in the season, Holly Grason researched the wireworm infestation that was destroying everything that was planted. She implemented a clever solution and shared materials about how to control wireworms with the rest of the gardening community.

At the October ICMGF member meeting, we celebrated these Master Gardeners for the following Years of Service:

- **5 years:** Robin Boyle, Krista Hanson-Walker, Judy Nylander, Tandy Scott
- **10 years:** Bobbi Peskuric, Sally Cahill, Susan Dakis, Judy Grimshaw, Ann Holmberg, Kate Rowan, Sheryl Sato
- **20 years:** Joan Bell
- **25 years:** Donna Stansberry, Taney Stewart
- **40 years:** Dave Thomas

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Donna and Steve Stansberry hosted a plant potting party at their garden, the source of many donations to the plant sale over the years. Over 150 plants were dug up and potted, and both volunteers and plants are resting comfortably in anticipation of a great plant sale in 2023. Read Raissa's article on the plant sale for great suggestions on how you can contribute, as so many of you do every year!



Loren Imes gave a presentation on gardening in a changing climate for the "Our Earth, Our Home" speaker series at the Camano Library in November. Loren highlighted six recommendations: 1) protect and improve soil, 2) protect and conserve water, 3) choose the right plants, 4) plant trees, 5) Grow food, and 6) reduce your carbon footprint. Niki Desautels from the Department of Fish and Wildlife also spoke. Watch for more on these issues at member meetings in our 2023 continuing education presentations.

This year's holiday party was a festive event, held at the Greenbank Progressive Club on December 9. More than 35 people brought treats, feasted, and re-connected. See the front page for photos of the merry crowd.

Camano Island Master Gardeners met at the new Camano home of Carole Matthews to celebrate the holidays, reconnect, and brainstorm Camano-ized activities for the new year.



Last but not least, join intrepid volunteers at these work parties even during the winter months:

- MG Education Garden at Greenbank Farm, Wednesdays 9 am to noon, weather permitting.
- Coupeville Community Garden volunteers will begin working at the end of February or early March. Work sessions are on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 pm and on Saturday from 10 to noon. If you are interested, contact Holly Grason.



2023 Reapplications Due

Let us know where you would like to share your time and talents in 2023! Click [this link](#) to fill out this short online form today, or point your phone's camera at this QR code:



Upcoming Events

For details on events, go to the Foundation website, icmgf.org or the WSU Extension [website](#)

- January 12** Weekly Thursday Office Clinics resume, [register to attend](#)
- January 15** Registration opens for [WGW 2023](#)
- January 19** ICMGF Board meeting
- January 20** Last day of early-bird registration for [WGW 2023](#)
- January 26** ICMGF member meeting (Zoom only)
- February 15-19** WSU Extension Master Gardener table at Northwest Flower and Garden Festival, Seattle
- February 16** ICMGF Board meeting
- February 23** ICMGF member meeting (Zoom only)
- March 3-4** Whidbey Gardening Workshop
- March 23** ICMGF Board meeting
- March 30** ICMGF member meeting (Welcome back to Pacific Rim hybrid meeting)

LOOKING FARTHER AHEAD

- May 13** Master Gardener Plant Sale
- July 13** Regional Celebration of 50th Anniversary of Master Gardener Program, Mt. Vernon



And the winner of the Ugly Holiday Sweater contest is... Annie Lentz!

ICMGF OFFICERS

President – Jim Peskuric
Vice President – Ilze Zigurs
Secretary – Kim Baxter
Treasurer – Paul Rowe

AREA REPS

South – Christine Dimm & Sheri Gerhard
Central – Holly Grason
North – Sally Howard
Camano – Adena Ray

State Foundation Rep — Carole Matthews

RESOURCES LINKS

The WSU Extension Island County Master Gardener Resources website contains links to

- approved resources
- MG Roster
- GivePulse instructions
- and much more

Visit island.wsu.edu or point your smartphone camera at the QR code. If you need the password, contact Loren.



[ICMGF Member Login](#) page of the Foundation website has:

- member picture book
- minutes of foundation meetings
- updates on Education Garden
- more info on activities

Need the password? Contact Ilze.

[GivePulse](#) website for recording your volunteer hours

We welcome your ideas and submissions for future articles. Please contact the newsletter editor, Carol Ann Leonessa at icmgf.newsletter@gmail.com