



**Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State  
WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Update  
March 15, 2023**

**Communication:**

Communication is key to success and research indicates that effective communication is one of the hardest things to accomplish in an organization. I view this board as a conduit for communication. I rely on each of you to take announcements, updates, and other information back to your local Programs and Chapters.

To facilitate communication and available resources there are a couple of places that I'm hoping each of you will help me spread the word on:

1. WSU Extension Master Gardener Program channel for volunteers:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCogTEZuk31O-l8bRymdfcHg>
  - a. Recorded staying mission driven sessions
  - b. Social media toolkit training
2. Tools for Program Volunteers:
  - a. <https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/resources/for-master-gardeners/>

**National Extension Master Gardener Week: *Let's shout from the rooftops!***

For the first time ever, we will celebrate a *National Extension Master Gardener* week and it is next week, the first week of spring March 20-26. We have national and local graphics and copy for you to use to share over your email and social media platforms.

Best practice for this type of campaign indicates we should post at least twice a day for each day of the week to capture as many audiences as possible. See the [graphics and text](#) for posting to your counties' social media pages. Or find what you need on the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program website [homepage](#) in the National Extension Master Gardener section.

Post twice a day using the [graphics and text](#) we created for you.

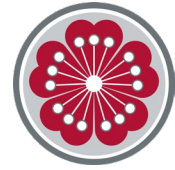
- In the morning, say around 7:30 or 8 AM post the National EMG suggested text with the national graphic.
- In the afternoon, say around 4:30 or 5, post a WSU graphic along with suggested WSU EMG Program (WA State) suggested text.

The National Extension Master Gardener Committee created the graphics and have asked all states to participate in sharing across platforms. Let's make sure they see how it's done. Grab these [resources](#) and post across all your social media accounts (personal, Foundation and Program), tell the folks in your counties who manage the social media for your local chapters and programs about the tools and ask them to post.

#EMG50 #extensionmastergardeners @WSUMGProgram

**NWFGF a grand success!**

Our participation in this festival is a testament to what a mutually beneficial, robust partnership looks like. 75 volunteers from across the state visited with more than 3000 people from 24 states, Canada and Mexico, too.



With lots of GoCougs! being bellowed as visitors passed the booth, there was a sense of pride celebrated in who we are, what we do, and why we do it. And the icing on the cake was our CAHNRS Dean Wendy Powers spent a good portion of the day with us on Saturday. Read the full [report and thank you letter](#) shared with program coordinators and foundation chapters who supported our participation at the festival.

## **Endowed Chair Campaign:**

### **CougsGive**

This year's [CougsGive](#) is April 12, 2023. Please join the WSU Cougar Family celebrating our achievements, learning about what's next in research and growth, honoring our generous donors, and exploring what we can imagine and accomplish when we ask the question, "What if...?"

#### ***WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Endowed Chair Fund***

*What if every Washingtonian had access to a sustainable garden and the benefits that gardening brings to healthy people and our planet?*

*The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program brings communities together through science-based training and volunteerism on gardening for food, beauty, health, and sustainability.*

*The Master Gardener Endowed Chair Fund will create the nation's first fully dedicated faculty chair for the Master Gardener program, who will build robust courses and partnerships to reach and teach thousands of volunteers.*

*Support master gardeners at work in your community, in perpetuity. Your gifts can transform 'imagine' into reality.*

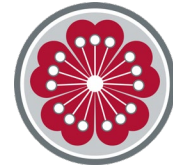
What is CougsGive? It is a day of giving where the entire Cougar nation does what they can to support the part of Cougar Nation that is most important to them by sharing out stories and testimonials on social media and email, by asking others to give and by giving themselves. The Endowed Chair Campaign has 1 challenge gift confirmed and a couple of other in the works.

Please help WSU spread the word by signing up as a #CougsGive Ambassador and sharing your own stories, and then join us in supporting the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program's future by making a gift on April 12. Go Cougs! By signing up, you'll have access to direct links to our campaign fund, to graphics and suggested social posts and to trackers so you can view the money that has been raised through your ambassadorship.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee will have specific graphics and suggested posts for you to use starting April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Find everything you ever wanted to know about the endowed chair on our website:  
<https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/get-involved/endowed-chair-campaign/>

## **WSU Extension Master Gardener 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update**



### Commemorative Magazine:

A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Magazine will be for sale soon. Pricing and logistics are still being figured out, but it will be available at the kick-off event on April 8<sup>th</sup>, for purchase online and for purchase at all of the events. Here's a sneak peek snapshot.



### Events:

All Extension Master Gardeners and the public are invited to attend any and all of the events.

- [Puyallup at PREC](#): April 8, 2023 from 1 PM - 3 PM
- [Prosser at IARAC](#): May 20, 2023 from 1 PM – 3 PM
- [Wenatchee at TFREC](#): June 10 from 10 AM - 1 PM
- [International Master Gardener Conference](#): Overland Park, Kansas June 18-22
- Mount Vernon at NWREC: July 13, 2023 from 10 AM – 12 PM
- [WSU Extension Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference](#) in Tacoma, WA from Sept 27-30.

### Program and Foundation Relations:

When Don and I first started, essentially at the same time back in 2018, we saw a need to improve upon the understanding of Program and Foundation partnerships, cognition of articles and incorporation and by-laws, and of policies and procedures. But, I think we both agreed that the bigger need was to work on relationships, to build some trust among foundation chapters and between program and foundation. He and I did some traveling and some Zoom sessions together with other counties to build the relationships and trust. We were both working toward the cohesive statewide program where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We've come a long way in these past few years.

Now, I'm getting more and more questions about structure, roles, responsibilities, articles, by-laws, policies, etc. So, I was happy to note that during our BOD retreat, the goal exercise led the MGFWS to adopt goals that addresses these questions. These goals align with program goals to have trained and skilled program coordinators and highly trained and engaged volunteers. I look forward to a time when we have a handbook for onboarding and orienting all board members, to when we have articles, bylaws, policies and procedures and other governing documents that we can use as a model for all counties. To that end, Tana and I have been meeting with a couple of County Foundations and Program Coordinators or Zoom and plan to do at least 5 in-person listening sessions to obtain data about local success and challenges while sharing information about the role and support provided by the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program and the MGFWS.

### Thank you!

We have come so far over these past few years. Thank you for your continued support. The work that each of you does comes from your hearts.