

NatureScaping of SW Washington

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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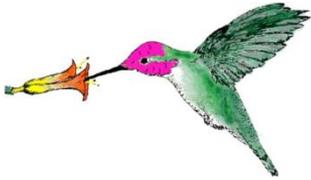
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NatureScaping of SW Washington

Mission Statement: Gardens and programs that inspire, educate, and enrich our lives and our community.

Purpose: To educate and encourage people on the importance of developing, restoring, maintaining, and conserving wildlife habitat and the native plants that comprise that habitat.



Message from the President

Dear Members, Volunteers and Community Partners,

In 2025, the Board developed a strategic plan for a sustainable future for NatureScaping of SW Washington. This strategic plan is already in process, and I'm so proud that I'm stepping down as President knowing the organization is in the strong, dedicated hands of our Board.

We identified achievable goals for 2026 including: documenting the planning and execution processes of all programs; increased environmental education for our Wildlife Botanical Garden Coordinators and Apprentices; and identifying current and future anticipated gaps in program leadership.

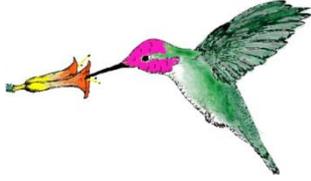
Volunteers and Community Partners are the backbone to our successful community events and programs. My personal gratitude to Celeste Monroe who created the documentation, processes and oversight of the Wildlife Botanical Gardens volunteers program leading to a stable core of Garden Coordinators, Apprentices and intermittent volunteers.

I'm so proud of the Board in finding and electing Anne Bulger as President starting January 1, 2026. We anticipate electing one more Board member, Aram Ferdows, to assist with our strategic planning.

My heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been involved with NatureScaping of SW Washington since 1994. We remain a strong organization because of all your support.

Enjoy the following report listing the many highlights of 2025 and our plans for 2026.

Meredith Hardin, Outgoing President

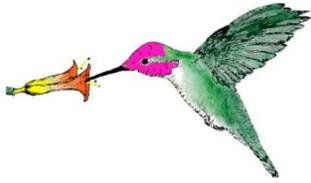


Wildlife Botanical Gardens

- Explore - daily, dawn to dusk: 11000 NE 149th St., Brush Prairie, WA 98606
- Space to connect with others and feed your spirit through the benefits of nature – photographers, artists, dog walkers, etc.
- Available space for small weddings, parties, community events by reservation.
- Benefit to local educational programs through service learning for college and high school students, school field trips; part of training classes for Master Gardeners, Composter Recyclers, and Stream Stewards.
- Geocaching site for people looking for caches, or hidden stashes of objects. Seekers use global positioning system (GPS) devices to find hidden caches. [Learn More](#)

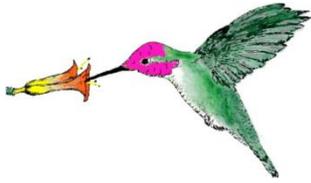


Designed by Kassi Summers, Muralist



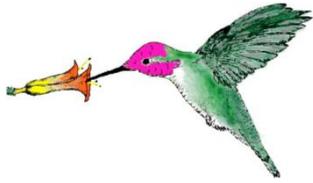
Additions to the Wildlife Botanical Gardens

- Garden name change from Collectors Garden to Sensory Garden
- Backyard Habitat Certification in progress in NW Natives, NW Bird Haven and Sensory Gardens
- Irrigation drip systems installed or renovated for multiple gardens, and irrigation maps created and stored for future volunteers to reference
- New Manor Garden water feature
- Additional garden space in-development in Homestead Garden
- Oregon White Oak donated to the Homestead Garden
- Murals painted on the large and small sheds
- Large shed reroofed and new rain gutters installed
- Solarization tarps over new 11th garden in development in partnership with Vancouver Bee Project and Clark Conservation District



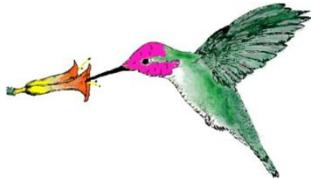
2025 Community Events

- **Bare Root Trees, Shrubs & Perennials** fundraiser held on Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th. Garden Delights Herb Farm joined in with a table selling their products. CASEE teachers and students also sold student-raised native trees and shrubs from their greenhouse. Mason Bee cocoons, supplies and education were also a big hit. We were able to sell all the remaining plants through members-only subsequent sale days!!
- **Monthly Environmental Education Classes** at the CASEE classroom.
- **Student Garden Coordinator Program** - An educational program pairing CASEE students with adult volunteer mentors to learn together on nature themed subjects, and complete related activities in the Wildlife Botanical Gardens. The program was held in March facilitated by Amanda Shaffer with 18 students and 12 adult mentors.
- **Art in the Garden** held on July 13, 2025. Always a fun day of art, music, spinning demonstrations, and a mini plant sale in the beautiful setting of the Wildlife Botanical Gardens.
- **Backyard Habitat Certification Program Open Gardens** held on May 16th and 17th in the Platinum-Certified Water Wise Garden.
- **Climate Resiliency Open Gardens Tour** held on August 16th. The Wildlife Botanical Gardens were one of three Clark County gardens to participate in the 1st Hardy Plant Society of Oregon's Climate Resiliency Open Gardens event.
- **Perennial, Bulb & Seed Swap** held on October 11th. NatureScaping/Master Gardener/volunteers share their time and gardening knowledge at this 9th annual event.
- **Clark County Master Gardeners** - Trainee cohort annual scavenger hunt and the annual volunteer's celebration held in the Wildlife Botanical Gardens.
- **Community Use of the Wildlife Botanical Gardens** – Weddings, birthday parties, tours, artists and photographers



Volunteers

- Board Members volunteered over 1,000 hours on Board projects, organizational programs and events.
- NatureScaping Garden Coordinators worked over 1,900 hours in the Wildlife Botanical Gardens, and more hours at our events.
- Clark County Master Gardener volunteers worked over 600 hours helping maintain the Wildlife Botanical Gardens and helping with events and classes.
- NatureScaping members, Battle Ground School District students, Clark College Students, Clark County Restorative Youth Program and community volunteers worked over 100 hours helping maintain the Wildlife Botanical Gardens and potting plants for our annual fundraiser.



2025 Classes

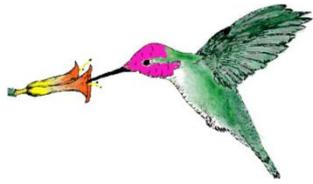
- **January—Houseplants 102-A not-so-ordinary discussion about plants!** ~ conducted by Carol Opatrny and Deborah Paskin, Clark County Master Gardeners
- **February—Mushroom Hunting for Beginners** ~ conducted by Rebecca Lexa, Naturalist
- **March—Native by Design: Reimagining Beauty with More Habitat, Less Lawn** ~ conducted by Eileen Stark, author and Eco-Landscape designer
- **May—Boost Biodiversity in Your Garden with Insect-Friendly Habitat** ~ conducted by Amy Champion, Co-author of Gardening in the Pacific Northwest: The Complete Homeowner’s Guide
- **June—Ecology, Edibles and Ethnobotany** ~ conducted by Hannah Schragger, owner of Good Year Farms, native plant nursery
- **July—Seasonal Bird Behavior** ~ conducted by Brandon Burger, Backyard Bird Shop Vancouver
- **August—Plant Bullies to Avoid in Your Landscape** ~ conducted by Jennifer Mendoza, WSU Cowlitz County Master Gardener
- **September—Composting Methods & Options** ~ conducted by Pete DuBoise, Clark County Composter Recycler Program
- **October—Around the World with Herbs** ~ conducted by Erin Harwood and Eloyce O’Connor, Co-Owners of Garden Delights Herb Farm
- **November—Native Mason Bees** ~ conducted by Brigg Franklin, Mason Bee Herder and Nigel Cundy, Mason Bee Co-Herder
- **December—The Power of Planting Natives** ~ conducted by Jennifer Bargar, Owner of Nature’s Haven



Memberships

- 151 new members and currently 450 members.
- Free classes.
- Receive monthly NatureScaping and News Nuggets Newsletter.
- Special environmental education events for higher level memberships.
- Repair Clark County volunteers for garden tools sharpening event.
- First choice on times to shop the Bare Root Trees, Shrubs and Perennials Sale.

Thank you to our members who choose membership levels higher than the \$25 General level!



Board Members

Officers:

Libby Adcock – Treasurer as of 2025; Board Member as of January, 2024.

Christy Caplan – Secretary since 2023. Board Member since March, 2022. Water Wise Co-Coordinator as of 10/1/2025.

Meredith Hardin – President 2013 through Feb 2023, 2024-25; Treasurer 2024. Board Member since 2008. Water Wise Garden Co-Coordinator. Garden Coordinators Committee Chairperson

Board Members:

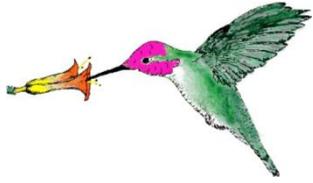
Marlene Dellsy – Administrative Assistant duties since 2014. Board member since 2015.

Troy Dunn – Board Member as of Feb. 2021. Online Communications Committee Chairperson

Celeste Monroe – Board Member as of January 2025. Programs/Events Committee Chairperson.

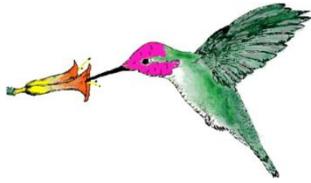
Rich Palmer – Board Member since 2017. Garden Maintenance Committee Chairperson. Homestead Garden Coordinator.

Hannah Schrager – Board Member since Feb, 2021. CASEE Advisory Committee. Owner of Good Year Farms and educational consultant for our programs.



Wildlife Botanical Gardens Coordinators

- **Christy Caplan** – Water Wise Garden Co-Coordinator (as of 8/2025)
- **Julie Carlsen** - Bird Haven Garden Coordinator
- **Carla Coffey** - Flying Flowers Garden Co-Coordinator
- **Nigel Cundy** - Deputy Mason Bee Coordinator
- **Ron Ferguson** – Arborist/Compost Coordinator
- **Brigg Franklin** - Mason Bees Program and Geocaching Coordinator
- **Karen Furnanz** - Cottage Garden Coordinator
- **Larry Greene** - Flying Flowers Garden Co-Coordinator
- **Meredith Hardin** – Garden Coordinators Committee Chairperson and Water Wise Garden Co-Coordinator
- **Elizabeth (Lee) LaLone** - Entrance Perennial Garden Coordinator
- **Karen Leckie** - Water Wise Garden Co-Coordinator
- **Monica Meyer** – Sensory Garden Coordinator
- **Nicki Henke** – Hummingbird Garden Co-Coordinator
- **Ruth Hoard** - NW Natives Garden Co-Coordinator
- **Richard Palmer** – Garden Maintenance Committee Chairperson and Homestead Garden Coordinator
- **Martha Stephenson** - Manor Garden Coordinator
- **John Wilson** – NW Natives Garden Co-Coordinator



2026 Plans

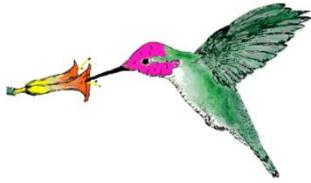
In 2026, NatureScaping of Southwest Washington will focus on strengthening governance, expanding educational programs, and enhancing the Wildlife Botanical Gardens as a regional resource for wildlife-friendly gardening. Under the leadership of President Anne Bulger, emphasis will be placed on clear communication, defined roles, and shared responsibility to support sustainable organizational growth.

Leadership, Governance, and Succession

The Board will continue refining governance structures that clarify roles and support a collaborative leadership model. The Board will integrate and support the Volunteer Coordinator role to strengthen communication and volunteer engagement across programs and gardens.

Succession planning will remain a central priority. NatureScaping plans to recruit and mentor Project Coordinators for key initiatives, including the Student Garden Coordinator Program, Mason Bee Program, Master Gardener Program Liaison, and Geocaching Program. These efforts strive to build leadership capacity, ensure continuity, and distribute responsibility sustainably.





2026 Plans (Cont'd)

Education and Program Development

Educational initiatives in 2026 will focus on strengthening ecological literacy and effective garden stewardship. The organization plans to implement a Master Plant List Program and develop a Garden Leadership and Stewardship Education Program for Garden Coordinators and volunteers.

NatureScaping will continue to support the Garden Coordinators interested in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, in collaboration with Portland Bird Alliance and Columbia Land Trust, reinforcing regional partnerships and conservation outcomes.

Wildlife Botanical Garden Expansion

Planning will begin for the 11th Wildlife Botanical Garden, tentatively titled *Habitat in Action*. This garden is envisioned as a living classroom that connects CASEE student learning with hands-on community collaboration, including work with Vancouver Bee Project and Clark Conservation District.

Infrastructure, Accessibility, and Community Well-Being

Targeted infrastructure improvements intend to support garden health and visitor experience, including electrical upgrades in the Cottage, Sensory, and Hummingbird gardens, replacement of the Cottage Garden watering system, and restoration of the pond in the NW Natives Garden. Plans are to place emphasis on the Sensory Garden – a space intentionally designed for individual with sensory processing differences – as part of our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in access to nature-based learning.

