

# Pat Smith – Clackamas County Master Gardener class of 1990

We had to say farewell to several of our Master Gardeners in 2022. We just learned of the passing of Pat Smith, who died May 18<sup>th</sup> of heart failure. Pat was 94; a member of CCMG since 1990. He made a remarkable contribution to our Chapter. But he was also a man whose life reflected strong values and qualities that benefitted every aspect of the community in which he served.

As a Master Gardener he set a standard few others will achieve.

- ❖ CCMG President 2001
- ❖ CCMG Advisory Board 2002 - 2005
- ❖ Clackamas County “Master Gardener of the Year” 1994
- ❖ State “Master Gardener of the Year” 2008 award at OSU Corvallis OMGA Mini College

His work served as the foundation for many of our annual events:

- Spring Garden Fair Vendor Field Setup many years and retired from it in 2007
- Clackamas County Extension Chair of the Entomology Committee
- CCMG Pruning Workshop for several years
- CCMG Tomato Cage Workshop for several years
- CCMG Mason Bee Workshop for several years
- Chairman of the Clackamas County OSU Extension Insect and Weed Curation Tri-County Committee

Pat and his wife, Bee, also a Master Gardener, had fifteen acres off Maple Lane near Redland Road. They were known for beautiful garden art as well as gorgeous plants. Their home was the scene of many parties.

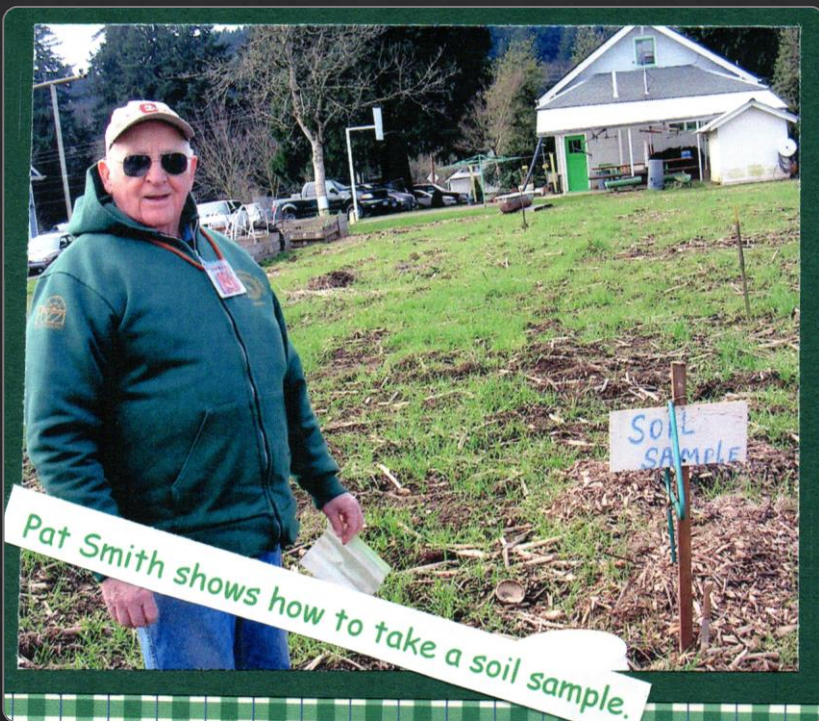
Pat was an educator by profession, and he spent many years as a biology teacher at Clackamas High. He was also an All-American football player as a lineman at Linfield College in the early 1950's. Later he became a beloved coach and served as athletic director at the now Alder Creek Middle School in Milwaukie. The sports field and tennis courts are named the Pat Smith Complex in his honor.

He applied his talents generously to years of service and leadership in the Master Gardener Program. Laura Eyer recalls that “he had those quiet leadership qualities that made him an effective president, board member, and mentor to so many Master Gardeners. He was known to have a “wicked sense of humor” but a “calm presence that brought decorum and agreement in so many instances. He had a can-do attitude and was willing to try new things, while honoring past practices”.

Roger Sanman shared memories of his association with Pat. Many thanks, Roger, for much of your contributions in his memory

For those of us who are “too young” to have known Pat, we nonetheless are recipients of his legacy of service, leadership, and knowledge that have laid a strong foundation to our chapter. For those of you who knew Pat, we know you will miss him - our condolences to you and all who knew him.

2006 Pruning workshop  
at the home of Paul Miken



OMGA Master Gardener of the year - 2008

2012 Tomato  
Cage Workshop  
at Clackamas  
Community  
College



2010 Mason  
Bee workshop  
at NWREC





**PAT SMITH EXPLAINS THE  
SET-UP TO AN EAGER  
HELPING HAND.**

2007 Spring Garden Fair setup @ the fairgrounds

## Spring Garden Fair growing popular

*The 17th annual event at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds this weekend has food, prizes and advice*

**By JIM KADERA**  
THE OREGONIAN

CANBY — One of the most popular events at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds will attract thousands this weekend.

It's the 17th annual Spring Garden Fair sponsored by master gardeners who were trained by the Oregon State University Extension Service.

The fair is an opportunity to obtain a large variety of plants and garden and yard accessories along with expert advice on how to get the most from them. The fair will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The event continues to grow from its early years. Attendance last year was a record 14,000 people, said Pat Smith, an Oregon City master gardener and one of the fair's organizers.

Vendors renting space totaled 122 in 1999. The ranks have swelled



TOM TREICK/THE OREGONIAN

**Pat Smith of Oregon City, who will share his tips during the 17th annual Spring Garden Fair this weekend, became a master gardener in 1990.**

to 145 this year, Smith said. Many are small nurseries, each with a different mix of perennials, trees and other plants to sell. A few master gardeners will have tomato plants for sale.

Other vendors will offer seeds, birdhouses, decorations and sculptures and outdoor furniture. "Anything you find in a garden," he

said.

The fair will go on rain or shine. Many of the exhibits will be under cover; some activities will be in the 4-H building. Master gardeners will provide educational programs and free soil testing for visitors who bring a quarter-cup sample.

Because of a budget shortage,

the fairgrounds for the first time will charge \$1 admission for those 17 and older.

The master gardeners earn a flat rental fee from vendors and from raffle tickets sold at 25 cents each. Plants, whimsical items and other prizes will be raffled at the fair. Soup, sandwiches and other food will be sold. Income goes for two horticultural scholarships at Clackamas Community College.

The balance in the scholarship fund is about \$22,000. Organizers want to increase that amount to \$30,000 so they can rely on the interest to pay for scholarships, Smith said.

The fair also is the primary fund-raising event for the Canby Garden Club, he said.

Fair visitors won't have to take plant purchases directly to their car if they want to eat or do something else first. "We'll have boxes that people can use to keep their plants at a check stand until they leave," Smith said.

Smith and his wife, Bee, became master gardeners in 1990. Besides helping at the fair, they give gardening clinics at farmer's markets and retail garden centers, and they answer questions at the OSU Extension office in Oregon City.

Pat in his garden: 2010

