



Clackamas County Chatter March 2024

Chapter Meeting – Monday, March 11 at 7 p.m. Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr. Milwaukie

• Meet & Greet at 6:30: Refreshments will be served! • Program is at 7:00 •

Regenerating Urban Landscapes: Let Nature Be Your Guide : *Carole Hardy, PSU & OSU Master Gardener*

Urbanization disrupts the function of ecosystems which threatens biodiversity and human health particularly among vulnerable populations. As stewards of the land, we can increase the resilience of our urban areas by working to regenerate landscapes. As Master Gardeners, we are positioned to implement regenerative practices, teach communities how to participate in regenerative practices, and advocate for change in policies and practices at a local, state and national scale.

Carole teaches environmental science and management classes at Portland State University leveraging her educational background in forest ecology and urban sustainability. She received her Master Gardener certification in 2022 and works in several demonstration gardens in the Metro area.



(Master Gardener Volunteers: this talk is approved for one hour continuing education credit)

Introducing Your 2024 Board Members: Judy Fulton –Secretary



"Amelia, our President, thought it would be a good idea to introduce you, our membership, to your board members. A great idea and as the newest board member, I get to be first. As your Secretary I take minutes of the board and chapter meetings and archive these documents. We keep seven years' worth, both soft and hard copy. We keep the rosters

for the Chapter meetings too. This is a brand-new service and especially useful if you need an alibi.

As for me, my interest in gardening probably started with my grandmother. I still have vivid memories of her checking on her flower beds most mornings still in her robe. She and my grandfather had a large garden and fruit trees and lived in California's central valley. It made an impression and led to working in a nursery and managing a house plant shop as some of my early jobs out of high school.

My interests shifted a bit into environmental protection by the time I attended college which resulted in a 30+ year career in environmental protection working in both the private and public sectors. Even then I always had a house full of plants, and once a homeowner a vegetable garden. I have had a vegetable garden every year for the last three decades. This is more a proclamation of perseverance than success, but it is something I haven't been able to let go.

After retirement I went back to school in Environmental Horticulture. I needed a transition that didn't leave me asking what I was going to do with my day. I

had so much fun! I even interned at Filoli Gardens for a summer working alongside professional gardeners in a formal garden setting. I was one of the oldest interns and am grateful they allowed me to work with them. It was also when I realized my hearing wasn't so good, and wondered why they didn't let me do much ladder work.

It was during this time I applied to be a Master Gardener. This was while I was still in the Bay Area of California, and they are organized a bit differently down there. You had to first contact them to register to attend an orientation meeting. You had to go to this meeting before you could apply. The first year I tried I was out in the garden and forgot until it was too late, and I missed the meeting. That meant I had to wait until the following year. So, another year goes by, I get to the meeting early this time, I get my application in right away, I get interviewed and before I was accepted my family situation changed and I moved to Oregon. Still not a Master Gardener.

You might wonder why I wanted so much to be a Master Gardener. Short answer, the people. Longer answer, it is a way to give back with like-minded folks that enjoy lifelong learning and appreciate science-based knowledge. One of the first things I did when I moved to Oregon was to apply to become a Master Gardener. I moved here in February of 2018 and was in training that spring. It has almost been six years and I have made this organization one of the highlights of my life. I have met some good friends and continue to learn and share about gardening. I hope to continue to do so, but maybe with hearing aids."

Judy Fulton, Chapter Secretary 2024

Grow an Extra Row Giving & Learning Garden - Winter Update



Under the direction of Kirk Pearson many winter tasks have been taking place for the 2024 growing season. Tools inventoried and stored, crop selection finalized, and seeds purchased. Purchasing seed provides our garden with a larger variety and selection of vegetables that will thrive in our Willamette Valley. This is a huge cost savings for the chapter.

Some of the seeds will be made into seed tape. Seed tape is an effective method to disperse small and hard to handle seeds. It is also a cost and time saver. The tape is simply laid in a shallow trench and covered lightly with soil. After germination, there is less thinning of seedlings necessary because the seeds have already been regulated and spaced properly. The cost saving is simple, fewer wasted seeds.

Seed tape preparations for the GAER garden will begin on March 13 at a hands-on workshop at the extension office annex, with all the materials and seeds ready to go. (Time TBA) If you want to help, please contact Priscilla Robinson or Wendy Wilson. There will be other pre-season work parties-if you want to get involved, please contact Kirk Pearson.

April 2nd at 9am will be our first workday at the Clackamas Community College Community Gardens. If you want to learn and grow with us, all are welcome. Bring small hand garden tools, gloves, and your own water bottle. Finally, much appreciation from all the GAER team goes to Nancy Muir and Eve Freeman! They continue to mentor this humble group, ensuring a smooth transition for the 2024 growing season. Nancy left us with a meek moto, "Come when you can, stay as long as you want".

To get involved please email ccmextrarow@gmail.com

Garden Discovery Day Returns!

Be sure to make time to attend this worthwhile event – Saturday, March 9, 2024 at the Milwaukie Center.

Each session is approved for one hour continuing education credit - bring a friend and join us for a morning of essential gardening tips.

For more details head over to the webpage: <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/garden-discovery-day/>



CLACKAMAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOC. PRESENTS:

Garden Discovery Day

March 9, 2024 • 9am to noon

Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive in Milwaukie

Learn How to Do-It-Yourself with Master Gardener™ Volunteers

Free & open to the public • doors open at 8:30 • www.cmastergardeners.org

9:00 Spring and Summer Containers

10:00 Growing Your Own Tomatoes

11:00 Composting with Garden Debris and Worm Bins

- ✿ **Soil Testing (9 – noon):** We will test your soil pH & give advice on amendments. Up to 4 samples per client. For step-by-step instructions download “Testing Soil pH” handout at www.cmastergardeners.org under the “10-Minute University™” tab.
- ✿ **Let’s talk Plants (8:30 – noon):** Master Gardeners will be on hand & eager to talk all things plants, diseases, pests & insect issues. Bring your questions, samples and/or pictures.
- ✿ **Educational Displays:** Three dimensional displays covering timely garden subjects.



**Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™**

Garden Discovery Day is a program of the Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association, offered in collaboration with and in support of the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program and through the support of the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, and the Milwaukie Community Center.

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, & materials.

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 2/23 to

Catalina Santamaria 503-655-8631 catalina.santamaria@oregonstate.edu



looking ahead

April 8 Meeting: Beyond Plants: What Else Your Garden Needs to Support Pollinators – Matthew Shepard

Plants are wonderful. A garden wouldn't be a garden without them. But if you want a garden that can support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators you need to create a place that can support their entire life cycle, and that means going beyond just plants. Matthew Shepherd of the Xerces Society will discuss practical ways in which you can bring diversity into our landscapes and make your garden a pollinator haven—and what better way is there to honor our planet for Earth Day than to help heal her wounds

March Webinars Presented by 10-Minute University™: All classes are from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

**All talks are approved for one hour continuing education credit*

- **March 6:** Garden Design taught by Laura Eyer
- **March 7:** Rain Gardens and Bioswales taught by Cheryl Borden
- **March 13:** Ten Proven Ideas for a Bee Friendly Garden taught by Leah Puhlman
- **March 14:** Soil & Planting taught by Sherry Sheng
- **March 20:** Integrated Pest Management taught by Cheryl Borden and Jane Collier
- **March 27:** Climate Friendly Lawns taught by Alec Kowalewski



You can find more information/ links to register here: <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/10-minute-university/>

Chapter Calendar

**All lectures are approved for one hour continuing education credit*

- **May 4 & 5 – *Spring Garden Fair*** Clackamas County Event Center, Canby Oregon
- **May 13 – *Lecture Series*:** The Worms Beneath our Feet—and Worm Bins, *Kris LaMar*
- **June 10 – *Lecture Series*:** Sustainable Turfgrass Management, *Alec Kowalksi*
- **July 12 & 13 (Friday & Saturday) *OMGA Joy of Gardening***
- **September 14 **Saturday**** Chapter Picnic, Milwaukie Center
- **October 12 – *Fall into Gardening*** Milwaukie Center, Milwaukie Oregon
- **October 14 – *Lecture Series*:** Success with Planting Garlic, *Chip Bubl*
- **November 12 **Tuesday** – *Lecture Series*:** Characteristics and Natural History of Conifers in the Pine Family (Pinaceae), *Elizabeth Price*
- **December 9 – *Lecture Series*:** Native plants in the Home Garden, *Eric Butler*

You will find more information about each event by clicking the blue highlighted links above.

Chapter Housekeeping

- 2024 Directories are now available – See Frank Wille at meetings and other events for your copy.
- 2024 Handbook is available online- check it out! <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/chapter-handbook/>
- Spring Garden Fair needs your help! Consider signing up for a shift or two. Admission is FREE to those who volunteer – come help us celebrate our 40th Anniversary. Click here to sign up: [Volunteers page](#)

❖ Refreshment Signups for coming meetings ❖

March: Debbie Busby April: Sharon Andrews

* Please consider signing up for a month to bring treats to our meetings.