



Clackamas County Chatter April 2024

Chapter Meeting – Monday, April 8 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 •

Beyond Plants: What Else Your Garden Needs to Support Pollinators:

Matthew Shepard, Director of Outreach & Education, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation



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?

Matthew Shepherd is the Director of Outreach and Education, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. He has spent thirty-five years working with people from all walks of life to create better places for wildlife. He works for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and in the last two decades has helped build pollinator conservation from an obscure issue to a topic of dinner-table conversation and wide engagement. Matthew is author or coauthor of numerous articles and other publications, including *Attracting Native Pollinators* (Storey Publishing, 2011) and *Gardening for Butterflies* (Timber Press, 2016). He learned gardening at his mother's side and has created and maintained wildlife gardens everywhere he has lived.

Introducing Your 2024 Board Members: *Priscilla Robinson, Vice President*

Priscilla Robinson is currently Vice President of the Clackamas County Master Gardener Association. She completed her training in 2017 and quickly got involved with a variety of volunteer opportunities to complete her certification process. As a Master Gardener, she keeps busy all year long. She is a member of the award winning, 10 Minute-University Team, delivering gardening instruction to the community, and helps with the "Let's Grow Together" webinar series. Grow An Extra Row Giving & Learning Garden holds a special place in her heart. This grassroots mission allows vegetable gardeners to share their talents and time, to grow and donate over 2 thousand pounds of farm fresh produce; utilizing science-based cultural practices.

Gardening alongside her grandparents and father in Bedford Hills, New York; Priscilla always had a hand in the gardening chores, an appreciation of the growing season and the joy of gathering harvests. She recalls her father pulling a salt shaker from his back pocket so they both could both sample sun-warmed tomatoes plucked from the vine.

Spending time in the family garden planted deep roots for her love of gardening, family and nature.



Priscilla and her husband Gus have been married for 45 years and have lived around the world with their three children. She enjoys growing vegetables and flowers at home in Happy Valley and at a community garden in raised beds. Bragging rights; her three children and four grandchildren all possess the same passion for gardening!

As a CCMGA executive board member, she appreciates the diverse talents and essential contributions the chapter members make to keep "all the wheels on the wagon". Her vision is to generate momentum for the next class of trainees to become certified, get involved and magnify the impact CCMGA contributes to the community.



Highlights from Garden Discovery Day on March 9, 2024: Many enthusiastic gardeners attended; a total of 118 people. Organizers see it as a big success! We had 30 Master Gardener volunteers to set up and provide services for the event. We welcomed 78 attendees from the public and held three classes. Each class had an attendance of around 60 people.



Laura Eyer talked about Container Planting for spring and with help from Priscilla created a beautiful planter that was given away at the end of the session. Amelia Wilbur talked about Growing Tomatoes. This session was by far the most popular. And Kris LaMar educated us about composting and worm bins.



Along with the talks we offered free pH soil testing; there were 78 gardeners bringing 233 samples! They sure kept the volunteers busy. Our Q & A table talked to 68 people and gave away lots of free seeds. Educational displays held the event goers' interest and included QR codes linking to more info and handouts. We served hot coffee and treats, and received generous donations too. Thank you to all that participated in this worthwhile event. Up next: Fall into Gardening on October 12, 2024



Spring Garden Fair is Celebrating our 40th Anniversary!



The dates for this year's event are May 4 & 5. As many of you know, Spring Garden Fair began as the Spring Fling Fuchsia sale in the main pavilion at the fairgrounds in 1984. The purpose was to raise money for a scholarship program at Clackamas Community College. By year two the name had been changed to Spring Garden Fair and we were off and running! We have seen many changes over the years as outlined in this document: [Spring Garden Fair – a Living History](#) Our annual fundraiser has enabled us to give back to the community with our many worthwhile programs including Grow an Extra Row, 10-Minute University™, volunteering at Hopkins and the End of the Oregon Trail to name a few; and don't forget the scholarship fund that started it all.

Our committee has been planning some fun things for our celebration including great giveaways for our customers and some creative Spring Garden Fair swag for volunteers. We need your help to make this event a success. Volunteers are needed for shifts beginning May 1 through May 5 – that's before, during, and after the Fair. Please consider signing up. And this year we are also welcoming family and friends to our volunteer staff. If you know someone that loves plants and people ask them to join us! (Remember that volunteers get FREE admission to the Fair!) [Click here to sign up.](#)

We have other needs besides your time. Raffle will need donations for prizes. Could you look around your homes for things that could be a prize? A pretty vase, pot, garden book or gift you don't like or need?

Re-gifting is OK, but it must be in like new condition. Garden related is preferred but not required. Would you be willing to purchase an item? Plants from a nursery, gloves, hand tools, seeds, plant tags, garden stakes, gift cards?

The Hospitality team is also asking for donations for the Master Gardener and Vendor breakroom. There will be over 100 vendors and their helpers in addition to the many volunteers. We will need lots of snacks for Saturday and Sunday. Think quick snacks like cookies, brownies (uncut), muffins, coffee cakes (store bought or homemade are options). And chips, crackers, fruit, cheeses, salami and/or veggies are also great! We serve from 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both days. Bring your donations to the Louise's Place Vendor/MG Break Room in Horning Hall beginning on Friday, May 3.

Thank you!



Did I mention Spring Garden Fair Swag?

Check this out - Embroidery Expressions, a longtime Spring Garden Fair vendor, will be offering hats, shirts, bags, and other items for sale embroidered with our Spring Garden Fair wagon logo. These items are offered ONLY to Master Gardeners at our Chapter meeting on the 8th of April. Bridget has also generously contributed an apron with the wagon logo for our door prize that evening, and to our 40th Anniversary grand prize. [Please stop by her table at the April 8 meeting for some fantastic SGF swag!](#)

Getting the Word Out

Help get the word out! Follow us on Facebook and share our event posts with friends and family: <https://www.facebook.com/SpringGardenFair>. Join the conversation on our Facebook Group -Spring Garden Fair: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpringGardenFair> . You can also find information about our event on our website: www.springgardenfair.org. We have a shareable, printable link for our postcard, [postcard link - just click here](#), that many folks like to email to family and friends. And more info about our vendors will be posted in April, so pop back over and check it out.

A postcard for the Spring Garden Fair. It features a red wagon logo at the top left. The text "Spring Garden Fair" is in large, stylized letters. Below it, "Presented by the Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association" is written. A yellow banner at the bottom lists the dates: "SATURDAY May 4 2024" and "SUNDAY May 5". The times are "9 am - 5 pm" for Saturday and "9 am - 4 pm" for Sunday. Below the banner, the location is "Clackamas County Fairgrounds & Event Center 694 NE 4th Ave Canby". The text "Two Full Days of Shopping Over 100 Local PNW Vendors \$7.00 admission & FREE parking" is in the center. At the bottom, the text "40 years & still growing" is written in a script font over a background of green grass and small flowers. The bottom right corner has the text "visit us at www.springgardenfair.org".

Come shop everything garden!

Clackamas County Fairgrounds 694 NE 4th Ave Canby

- Free Educational Opportunities
- 100 Plus Local PNW Nurseries
- Shop for Original Garden Art
- \$7.00 admission with under 16 free
- FREE parking • ATM on site
- No pets and No smoking please
- www.springgardenfair.org

The Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association in collaboration with and in support of



OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 4/19 to Catalina Santamaria at 503-655-8631 catalina.santamaria@oregonstate.edu

Proceeds benefit Master Gardener programs in Clackamas County



looking ahead

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*

- **April 3:** Garden Transformation taught by Sherry Sheng, Jim Rondone and Laura Eyer
- **April 10:** Debunking Garden Myths taught by Jane Collier
- **April 11:** Raised Bed Gardening taught by Priscilla Robinson
- **April 17:** Plant Trial Winners taught Cheryl Borden and Sherry Sheng
- **April 24:** Proven Ideas for Bird Friendly Gardens taught by Leah Puhlman



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:*** TBA
- **June 10 – *Lecture Series:*** Sustainable Turfgrass Management, Alec Kowalski
- **June 17th** - 5:30-8:00- An evening at *N&M Herb Nursery in Hubbard*
- **July 12 & 13 (Friday & Saturday)** *OMGA Joy of Gardening*
- **September 7** **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/>
- **Clackamas County Master Gardener Assoc. is on Facebook!** – if you Facebook please give us a like and follow.
<https://www.facebook.com/ClackamasCountyMasterGardeners> Send us a FB message if you have any content suggestions 😊



Refreshment Signups for coming meetings



April: Sharon Andrews, Nancy Cutler

*Please consider signing up for a month to bring treats to our meetings. (*Signing up does not mean making the coffee!*) We would love to have two or three people sign up for the May and June meetings. Everyone enjoys a plate of cookies, a fruit platter, chips, and hummus. Our chapter has been enhanced with in-person monthly meetings, programs, and the opportunity to interact face to face. From 6:30-7:00 the Milwaukie Community Center is a flurry of laughter with long-standing friends and welcome conversations with new gardeners. This spring we will have CCMG Trainees joining us. Setting the stage for the second Monday of the month with refreshments makes life just a little bit sweeter.

President: Amelia Wilbur • Vice President: Priscilla Robinson • Secretary: Judy Fulton • Treasurer: Rhonda Frick-Wright
Assistant Treasurer: Vaughn Marable • Advisors: John Wilbur, Wendy Wilson, Kelly Welch • Newsletter: Laura Eyer