



Clackamas County Chatter November 2024

Chapter Meeting Tuesday, November 12 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 •

Elizabeth Price Conifers of the Pacific Northwest: Characteristics and Natural History of Conifers in the Pine Family (Pinaceae)

Our meeting is being held on Tuesday, November 12, due to the Veteran's Day Holiday on Monday Happy Veteran's Day to all our Veterans!

A hybrid Zoom meeting is planned for November. Click [here](#) for the Zoom meeting info.



The Pacific Northwest (PNW) is one of the most diverse regions in the world for conifers. Our climate has much in common with many other areas of the planet where conifers maintain dominance over flowering trees, making the PNW an ideal place to include both native and non-native conifers in the home landscape. This talk will focus on the pine family (Pinaceae). The foliage, cone, bud, and bark characteristics that differentiate spruce, true fir,

hemlock, Douglas-fir, larch, and true cedar will be highlighted. A bit of history on each of these groups of conifers will also be presented.

Elizabeth Price has been a certified Master Gardener since 2008 and has been leading workshops on conifers for other Master Gardeners and for the public for over a decade. This interest in conifers lead to her writing a book on the subject, Native and Ornamental Conifers in the Pacific Northwest: Identification, Botany, and Natural History, published by Oregon State University Press. She holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Arizona and has worked as a professional writer, editor, and curriculum designer. Note: Elizabeth Price will have her book available for sale.

Used books needed for Book Sale. Bring in your used or spare gardening books, magazines and children's books. Arrive early (6:15 PM) so books can be put out on tables. Please bring cash for your purchases.

Last chance book sale will be 8:00 – 8:15.



Final Update from Grow an Extra Row

The Grow an Extra Row Master Gardeners had another successful year. Tuesday, October 15, was the last day at the GAER garden for this year. A group of hardy volunteers braved the rain and was able to completely re-cover all the paths in wood chips, do a partial renovation of the perennial herb bed, and pack up the last of the supplies for winter storage off-site.

Final harvest amounts: Peas – 4.2 lbs. and Dill - 0.4 lbs. Another gardener donated 18.2 lbs. of produce. A BIG thank you to those who volunteered in the garden during the month of October: Louise, Taressa, Eve, Terri, Sandi, Will, Kathy, Vaughan, Hannah, Michelle, Susie, Kirk, Priscilla, Heather, Liz, Barb S., Barb V., Bob, Wendy, and Harry. A special thank you to Ellen for all your behind-the-scenes volunteering.



In person voting will happen at the November meeting for our slate of officers and the chapter budget. Check your email to review updated budget information prior to the meeting. The following volunteers have been nominated for the 2025 Executive Board:



- President: Priscilla Robinson
- Vice President: Jane Collier
- Secretary: Judy Fulton
- Treasurer: Helen Watt
- Assistant Treasurer: Rhonda Frick-Wright
- Advisor: Kelly Welch
- Advisor: Wendy Wilson
- Advisor: Amelia Wilbur
- OMGA Rep: Barb Seekins
- OMGA Alternate Rep: Seamus Ramirez

Thank you all for your service to our chapter!

Chapter Activity Feature: Hopkins Demonstration Forest

The Master Gardeners have had a busy and productive year at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Along with keeping the Native Plant Garden looking good and the pathways maintained for accessibility, we have added an informational kiosk with photos of many of the native plants in the garden. New signage has also been added to correspond with the photos in the kiosk. The landscaping in front of Everett Hall had become overgrown and needed to be changed. MG Laura Eyer created a beautiful design for that area. With the help

from the Hopkins volunteers and CM Landscaping, we were able to get the new soil, plants and mulch in place. Special thanks to Karen Day for her help working with Laura and to Bob and Marianne Kahl for the donation of the rock benches. Please stop by and have a look: The forest is on 140-acres of privately owned forest open to the public for self guided exploration, tours, workshops, and education programs. Located at 16750 S Brockway Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045 and open during daylight hours.



Master Gardeners recognized for outstanding service!



Laura Oldenkamp was awarded "Master Gardener of the Year, 2024" by OMGA after nomination by the chapter for her service in the following areas: Chapter Secretary from 2019-2023, (5 Years), volunteering at End of the Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden since 2015, and Hopkins Demonstration Garden also since 2015, where she is the keeper of records for the volunteer service hours.

Laura has served on the Spring Garden Fair committee, chairing the sign committee since 2016. From 2019 – 2023 Laura was the door greeter at chapter meetings, and her home garden was featured in the 2018 "Open Gardens" program. Laura has lent her diverse talents and deep knowledge to many areas of service, benefiting the chapter and home gardeners in general. Congratulations! A well-deserved honor indeed!



Leah Puhlman received the Behind the Scenes award for 2024. Leah has contributed to many events, both in the "forefront" and in the background. She has chaired the Spring Garden Fair Exhibit Hall and manages the 10-Minute University™ Facebook page. Her passion for gardening education led to her many frontline activities as well: answering questions at the Clackamas County Helpline, serving as a Mason Bee Wrangler at the Oregon Zoo, participating in the Metro Master Gardener Speakers Program; and teaching hands-on workshops in her home garden. She works with the 10-Minute University™ team developing and teaching a portfolio of classes including Mason Bees - Enabled Gardener - Garden Wilding! - Hosting Native Bees, and Gardening for Birds. She has also developed the brand through consistent graphics and event pages. Congratulations to Leah! You have benefitted so very many with your unselfish service to many programs and people.

Let's Celebrate Fall into Gardening

Our popular public education event for the autumn season, "Fall into Gardening" was held on October 12th with over 100 in attendance. There were educational displays, free soil testing, Q & A with "Let's talk plants" and three entertaining and very educational classes. Despite some major technical glitches, the instructors (Laura Eyer, Carole Hardy and Jane Collier), soldiered on and held a very attentive and interested audience throughout. Over 45 Master Gardeners attended as well as the public. This was a great way for each to get educational hours as well as partner hours for recertification. Thanks to all who helped! A "shout out" to Sandi Hartley who chaired the event to its success. See you all for Garden Discovery Day in March, 2025 😊



Spring Garden Fair

We have begun planning for our 41st Fair. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 pm at the Extension office Annex. All are invited to join us. Two of our committees are in need of help for the 2025 Fair: **Vendor/Master Gardener Breakroom**, and **Potting Station**. Each of these positions are needed primarily for the week before and the days of the fair. If you are interested in lending a hand, or just want some information, please contact Spring Garden Fair chair [Cindy Manselle](#). And of course, save the date – Saturday and Sunday, May 3 & 4, 2025. <https://springgardenfair.org/committee/>



December's Chapter meeting will be held on Monday, December 9 at 7:00 pm

The December lecture: Native plants in the Home Garden: Eric Butler, Educator and Master Gardener

While gardening with native plants today is more popular than ever, gardeners often wonder how to best use them in the landscape. This presentation explores what makes a plant "native", situates native plants in the context of native ecosystems, and adopts those ecosystems into concepts for the home garden. It also discusses where to obtain native plants and lists relevant resources.

Eric Butler is a professional ecologist with Clackamas River Basin Council. He has been an OSU Extension Master Gardener since 2015, and has also taught classes and workshops at Portland State University, Clackamas County Tree School, Clackamas Community College Environmental Learning Center, and local high schools.



.....  *looking ahead*

Chapter Calendar

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

- **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.



At the October chapter meeting we welcomed the 2024 Inters to our chapter. We asked them to say a few words about their experience and gifted them with a hand-crafted bag of awesome Master Gardener goodies. Congratulations to our new crop of Perennial Master Gardeners, and welcome to the chapter!

