



Clackamas County Chatter February 2025

Chapter Meeting Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7 p.m. • Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr. Milwaukie
Meet & Greet begins at 6:30 with refreshments. The program will start at 7:00.

Finding Balance Within City Garden Soils presented by Mykl Nelson *



Learn more about the soils in your garden: Mykl Nelson is an instructor of urban agriculture in the department of Horticulture at Oregon State University. Mykl is a popular speaker and has researched the problem of over-enriched garden soil, especially with

excessive use of organic matter in raised beds. In addition to research on soils, he is developing online courses to train and empower new urban growers to produce food within the confines of their modern environment. He presents socio-ecological research in urban and suburban garden systems. <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab/>

**Elegible for continuing education credit*

Seed and Tool Donations Needed for Low-Income Food Gardeners



PLEASE DONATE

Donations of trowels, shovels, rakes, clippers, and more were well received at January's chapter meeting. The tools will benefit the participants in the Seed to Supper Program. Bill Dixon commented "The generosity of our members is amazing!" It's not too late to clean your work bench, tool shed or garage. Bring your hand and long handled tools to the next chapter meeting. We also need vegetable and herb seeds for them to plant. Any seeds packaged from 2021 should be usable if they were kept inside, sealed and dry. Please ensure the packets are sealed and labeled. Thanks again for helping these food gardeners in need!



Chapter Announcements

➤ Spring Garden Fair: Saturday and Sunday, May 3 & 4 in Canby www.springgardenfair.org

Volunteer sign-ups will go live in early February! Head over to the [Volunteers Page](#) and watch your email for a direct message from the volunteer's team. The committee is also in need of someone to help in the **Vendor/Master Gardener Breakroom** during the week of the Fair. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Manselle. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 19, 7pm at the Extension office Annex. *All chapter members are invited to attend.* www.springgardenfair.org/committee/



➤ Save the Date: Garden Discovery Day on March 15 from 8:30 – noon at the Milwaukie Community Center

There will be in-person presentations, pH soil testing, Master Gardener Clinic, gardening displays, and refreshments. Sandi Hartley will graciously chair this event. She is looking for volunteers for set-up (7:30-8:30 am) and take down (noon-1:00pm). Please contact her or Priscilla Robinson if you are interested. She will also be at the February Chapter meeting to answer any questions and sign you up!

- New this year: A children's table with simple activities to keep little fingers and minds engaged during the event. We are asking you to get the word out to friends and neighbors, and to "Save the Date". Specifics for the Workshop topics are being finalized, and posters and cards for distribution will be available soon.

➤ Garden Ecology Lab Says *Thank You*

OSU and Gail Langellotto sent our chapter a lovely letter outlining the positive impact our contributions are making. Here is a snippet of her note and team of scientists.

"Thank you so much for your support of the Oregon State University Garden Ecology League (GEL), including the development and dissemination of 10 GEL Briefs, which broadened our outreach efforts and impacts. Your donation supports the graduate and undergraduate students in the laboratory and enables their research and hands-on education in experimental design, data collection / management / analysis, and academic writing and publishing. This past year, our lab group consisted of one Ph.D. student (Jen Hayes), one M.S. student (Nina Miller), and four undergraduate students (Anna Perry, Lillie Case, Kailey Legier, and Lillian Swartzendruber), who collectively worked across four research projects."

Our Chapter has amazing resources at our fingertips. If you are curious about socio-ecological research in urban and suburban gardens, check it out. A strong pillar for the research: "Gardens are important and understudied systems, that are key to building more sustainable, healthy and just communities." If you are interested in the work that is being done at OSU in the Garden Ecology Lab, the link is on our website or you can use this link. <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/gel/>



Note from the Desk of Priscilla Robinson

The arrival of the seed catalogs is always a welcome sign that spring is not too far away. As a Master Gardener, I equate these colorful pageants of possibilities to the arrival of the Christmas Sears “Wish Book” when I was a child. Pages “dogeared” and post-its flag down with new flowers and vegetables that may be planted in my gardens. The “Let’s Grow Together” webinars are a perfect pairing to put these plans into action and fill chilly days with potential. Our CCMGA 10-Minute University team of instructors has developed a beautiful lineup, so every Wednesday at noon you can earn educational hours, see familiar faces and pick up an idea or two.

The lengthening days also signal the opportunities that await this spring and summer. My tools expect a tune up and my potting shed a clean-out. As a Clackamas Master Gardener the coming of spring means gathering face to face at committee meetings, attending workshops, participating in work parties and of course this big show – the Spring Garden Fair.

In the meantime, many CCMGA members are making it to the monthly meetings in person and on zoom. Refreshments and lively conversation prevailed in January. It was well attended with 77 people in attendance and on Zoom. They enjoyed a great presentation about our growing Seed to Supper mission. Nancy Muir, Eve Freeman and Bill Dixon provided a nice history and the path the program will be taking in 2025.

For me, becoming a Master Gardener opened a world of new friends, heightened gardening skills, deeper appreciation and wonder of nature and a solid network in our marvelous community. Maybe it’s time to reflect on what becoming a Master Gardener meant to you; then and now. How has that vision bloomed and what opportunities await?

*Take care,
Priscilla Robinson!*

This Month’s Webinars Presented by 10-Minute University™



- **February 5 at noon:** Healthy Soil: Practical Tips for New & Seasoned Gardeners taught by Jusin Dune
- **February 12 at noon:** Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces taught by Priscilla Robinson
- **February 19 at noon:** Restoring Natural Ecosystem in Gardens taught by Carole Hardy.
- **February 26 at noon:** Growing Early-Season Vegetables by Jane Collier.

*All webinars approved for continuing education credit

[Click here for more information and links to register for each class](#)

February Calendar

- **February 10 – [Lecture Series](#):** Learn More About the Soils in Your Garden presented by Mykl Nelson, OSU
- **February 19 – [Spring Garden Fair](#)** meeting 7:00 at the Extension Annex. *All chapter members are welcome.*
- **February 25 -** Executive Board Meeting, Extension Annex, 2:00pm *Meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend.*

[Click here for the complete 2025 calendar](#) *subject to change

President: Priscilla Robinson • **Vice President:** Jane Collier • **Secretary:** Judy Fulton • **Treasurer:** Paul Baker
Assistant Treasurer: Rhonda Frick-Wright • **Advisors:** Wendy Wilson, Kelly Welch Amelia Wilbur • **Newsletter:** Laura Eyer