



Clackamas County Chatter September 2025



Chapter Picnic "Flowers, Friends & Fun"

Summer is going by so quickly - and now it's time to think about the Chapter Picnic! Our theme for this year is *Flowers, Friends and Fun*. Our annual event will be on **Saturday September 6th from 5:15pm - 7:00pm at the Milwaukie Center outdoor area**. Families and children are welcome. We are looking forward to a yummy potluck with our Master Gardener friends and family, so come join the fun – there will be games, a sing-along, a photo booth and so much more. Be on the lookout for an Evite from Kelly Welch - your RSVP will help us to plan accordingly. If you would like to help with the picnic please contact Jane Collier – ccmga.vp@gmail.com We are looking for help with set-up, take-down, food prep and more. *Hope to see you all there!*



Chapter Announcements

- Chapter Picnic
 - Saturday, September 6 at 5:15pm – 7 pm
 - Milwaukie Center Picnic Pavilion. All are Welcome
- Fall into Gardening - SAVE THE DATE - October 18TH , 9-noon. Led by experts, this event provides valuable, research-based gardening insights and is free to all. Master Gardeners can earn recertification hours and learn while helping out, so come join us and learn while you earn! To volunteer please contact Sandi Hartley by email: shartley450@cs.com Webpage: [Fall into Gardening](#)
- Sara Hite Rose Garden Work Parties
 - 10:00am to noon on Friday, September 12. Bring your water bottle, pruners, weeder and bucket.
- Where will you make a difference this summer? Click the links for more detailed information and join us at these chapter sponsored projects with workdays continuing into the fall: :
 - ❖ [Grow an Extra Row](#): Workdays on Tuesdays & Fridays through mid-October. Master Gardeners are also encouraged to drop off donations from their own gardens to add to the bounty. Please bring your cleaned produce to the gardens by 9:30am for delivery to the food pantries.
 - ❖ [End of the Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden](#): Workdays every other Wednesday through October.
 - ❖ [Native Plant Garden at Hopkins Demonstration Forest](#): Workday on the third Monday of the month through October.
 - ❖ [Gray & Norreene Thompson Community Projects Grants](#): Helping provide seed money for projects in the community. Check out their page for information about past grants, and to learn how to apply for funding.

Chapter Housekeeping

- [Recertification Hours](#) are now being accepted on VRS 24/7. Go online now to log those hours > [OSU Metro MG VRS](#)
- [Stay in the Know!](#) Be an informed Master Gardener volunteer: Keep up on the latest news and happenings by reading the metro area MG Program emails. Plus, find additional program information by visiting the Metro Master Gardener website-check out the [Volunteer Resources page](#) for a variety of helpful links and resources including CERVIS, VRS, and annual requirements. [Contact Marcia McIntyre](#) at the Clackamas County Extension office with any questions..

Green Glove Award

The June Award went to Katie Carriker, class of 2013.

Katie has been responsible for chairing the Plant Check service at the Spring Garden Fair for at least 5 years. She has always done a great job sometimes in less than the best circumstances – one year in a flood of the Rosebrook Arena. This year presented new challenges. Because of construction around the Rosebrook Arena, Plant Check needed to be moved to the Ely Arena at the Canby Fairgrounds. Katie did an exceptional job of reorganizing how Plant Check is done including having to direct cars through the arena to pick up plants. Her volunteers regularly sing her praises and many return year after year to volunteer. She more than deserves the Green Glove award. Congratulations, Katie!



Master Gardener Volunteers *Honored*

Congratulations to our Fellow Chapter Members!

2025 Master Gardeners of the Year Awardees are Amelia and John Wilbur, class of 2007 & 2008 for their contributions to the Master Gardener program. “This award recognizes outstanding dedication and service of an OSU Master Gardener at the county level. Service of this individual should benefit your county as a whole.”



Within the chapter organization, this team of John and Amelia Wilbur nearly single handedly sustained our chapter during the pandemic years. John was President for four and Amelia two years respectively. Lockdowns and shutdowns in the community changed how the chapter did business. Quarantined together, Amelia and John teamed up to communicate with Extension and chapter members.

Following John’s second term Amelia took on the role of President and jump-started many of our public events.

Garden Discovery Day, pH Soil testing for the public and Fall into Gardening resumed, offering education and community outreach.

While Amelia forged on placing new leaders into key roles, John served as an Advisor on the Executive Board. Chapter meetings resumed in person and Amelia pursued talent to facilitate a hybrid Zoom/in-person monthly meeting to include nonmobile members.

John and Amelia have inspired both MG interns and experienced Master Gardeners alike. They have made substantial educational and environmental contributions at both the Master Gardener level and community at large. Together they have developed and directed 15 years of soil pH testing, which still continues.

The impact of their leadership years as chapter president(s) is testimony to the strength and vitality of our chapter today, resulting in outstanding membership numbers and participation in programs that reach deep into community.

Our County Behind the Scenes Award went to Kirk Pearson. “This award recognizes one OSU Master Gardener volunteer who works quietly and unselfishly behind the scenes to further the OSU Master Gardener Program on a county level. This is not a person who is out in front working on projects, so that everyone knows their contributions. Rather, it is a person whom few may actually know the level of their contributions.”



Kirk Pearson - A man of few words with the heart and energy of giant. Kirk became a Master Gardener in 2018. Upon joining the Clackamas chapter, he began volunteering for Spring Garden Fair, Grow an Extra Row and small chapter events.

What he soon discovered was that the people in the organization were accepting of others, had a “Can Do” attitude, and open to new friendships. These characteristics mirror Kirk and his commitment to the Clackamas Chapter.

Year by year he has silently crept into projects and leadership roles. He is not measured by just the hours he volunteers; he is the quiet hand in the back of the room that raises, then says, “Yeah I can do that, sign me up”. He doesn’t look for recognition and his face is always at the back of a group photo. He is a lead member of the Spring Garden Fair Committee and now leads the Grow an Extra Row team. The beauty of his humble nature is that he doesn’t understand the impact and confidence he gently radiates on his peers to step up. When asked about being a CCMG member he replied, “I wish I had joined Master Gardeners sooner”.

County Growing and Belonging was given to Nancy Muir as a volunteer that has significantly contributed to creating a belonging environment, inclusive of diverse communities such as race, ethnicity, culture, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or growing our volunteer work in traditionally under-invested communities.



Nancy has been a longtime volunteer in Clackamas County and the surrounding Metro Area. She became a Master Gardener in 1994. She soon understood her own life values for “works of

mercy” would be the foundation of her mission as a Master Gardener.

Nancy had the uncanny knack to fill in the gaps for community members, in need of assistance - whether that be food insecurity, gardening education, gardening assistance with new tools and seeds or just a mentoring friend. She accomplished many of her goals by leading and volunteering with Grow an Extra Row and Seed to Supper. Her reward was not with earning volunteer hours, but with the number of smiles from the community members being served. She is truly worthy of this award.

Joy of Gardening Conference

Ah, the joy of gardening...we know the satisfaction of tasting the first home grown tomato of the season, finding an unexpected bloom, or digging in the dirt to plant bulbs anticipating early spring color. In July on the 11th & 12th the conference named for this “Joy of Gardening” took place in Corvallis with lots of opportunities to share our passion and learn.

Though organized by the Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA), our chapter was well represented. Nancy Muir shared her wisdom as part of a panel discussion on the “Seed to Supper” program. Leah Puhlman presented on “Greenhouses” passing along expert advice and Sherry Sheng gave her terrific ‘Plant Super Heros” talk. Carole Hardy spoke about restoring garden ecosystems to improve resilience.

There also were keynote presentations geared toward the future of gardening and the program given by Dr. Leslie Madsen,

Dr. Brooke Edmunds and LeAnn Locher. Other activities were tours of the OSU Campus Arboretum and the Horticultural Science Lab, a trivia game, and a large silent auction of fun items. Talks by experts on topics ranging from fungi, hydrangeas, pesticides, home orchard care, to pollen plants rounded out the offerings. It was inspirational!

Awards were also given with our chapter people represented. Our appreciation goes to the following dedicated folks – see article on page 2 for more details about the awards.

- **Nancy Muir**, Growing and Belonging
- **Kirk Pearson**, Behind the Scenes Master Gardener
- **Amelia Wilbur**, Master Gardener of the Year
- **John Wilbur**, Master Gardener of the Year



Since longevity awards have not been given in some time, we would also like to honor those members who have been Master Gardeners for 20 years or more.

20-year recipients

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| o Elise Albert | o Marianne Kahl | o Willi Olson |
| o Linda Christeson | o Margueritte Kosovich | o Irwin Rogers |
| o Nancy Cutler | o Kathy Long | o Roger Sanman |
| o Donna Engel | o Ruth Lund | o Sherry Sheng |
| o Jean Erikson | o Cindy Manselle | o Diana Smith |
| o Terri Hoffman | o Jeanie Mattern | o Sherry Uchytel |
| o Nancy Hopkins | o Diana Nelson | o Janet Weber |
| o Joanne Houseworth | o Dick Nelson | o Phil White |

30-year recipients

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| o Carl Barney | o Rene Metter |
| o Mickey Becker | o Richard Rolloff |
| o Laura Eyer | o Harry Wise |
| o Sherry Holley | |

40-year recipient

- o Gretchen O’Brien

Congratulations to all!



Note from the Desk of Priscilla Robinson

This summer, CCMGA members volunteered for many chapter projects including helping the community through garden tours, fresh produce donations, and answering gardening questions both at Farmers Markets, and through the Extension Office (in person and virtually).

With Autumn comes more timely activities. Chapter committees come together again to plan annual events happening in the fall, and into the new year. If you have been looking for something to get involved in please check the [Online Chapter Handbook](#) to browse events you may find interesting.

There you will find a list of committee leads - they would love to hear from you!

Our annual Chapter Picnic on September 6th looks to be both delicious and fun. *We do throw the best Potlucks in the County!* Try not to miss this opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones too! *Check out all the details in the article at the top of page one.*

Priscilla Robinson CCMG President

.....September Calendar.....

- ❖ **Saturday, September 6** – Annual Chapter Picnic 5:15pm to 7pm at the Milwaukie Center Pavilion Area
- ❖ **September 17** – [Spring Garden Fair](#) meeting 7:00 at the Extension Annex. *All chapter members are welcome.*
- ❖ **September 30** - Executive Board Meeting, Extension Annex, 2:00p.m. All are welcome.

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

Our dedicated Master Gardeners offered workshops for interns both at personal gardens and CCMG sites. These sessions were designed to enhance the Online Master Gardener Training and took place this Spring and Summer. Below is a list of the topics presented

- Rose Pruning in West Linn led by Will Huges – We learned how to prune seven types of roses – climbing, floribunda, grandiflora, hybrid tea, miniature, shrub, and tree roses. Expert demonstration and hands-on practice in a private garden”.
- Renovate a Mature Apple Tree led by Sherry Sheng in March and July at the End of the Oregon Trail in Oregon City Dormant and Summer Pruning - Learning through observation, short talks, and hands-on practice how to renovate an old fruit tree.
- Insect ID in Oregon City led by Jane Collier and Cheryl Borden - This workshop was up close and personal with insect mouthparts, wing patterns, antennae forms. Soon you can tell them apart with ease!
- Vegetable Gardening led by Priscilla Robinson at the GAER plots in Oregon City. – This hands-on session introduced attendees to growing vegetables, composting, crop selection, soil preparation, planting seeds and starts and making seed tape.
- Tree ID at the CCC arboretum in Oregon City led by Cheryl Borden - This workshop covered how to use a dichotomous key to identify trees and then apply new skills by identifying trees on the college campus.
- Gardening for Wildlife held in Lake Oswego led by Leah Puhlman – The focus was on creating gardens that provide wildlife steppingstone habitat in urban environments.
- Forest Hike at Hopkins Demonstration Forest led by Carole Hardy – Observing the trees, shrubs, ferns and herbaceous plants native to this area. Discussed was how to integrate some of these plants in your garden to provide homes for wildlife.
- Berry Workshop in Oregon City Led by Jane Collier & Mary Lindstrand - This workshop answered questions about growing and caring for strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries.
- Pollinator Garden at the Mary S. Young Park led by Cheryl Borden -. The focus was on three aspects: 1. Design, 2. Garden installation, 3. Maintenance.
- Putting the Vegetable Patch to Bed at the GAER beds led by Priscilla Robinson - Join us for a hands-on introduction to tasks in the vegetable garden at the end of the growing season. Date set for late September.
- Dahlia: Culture and Tuber Divisions in Cany led by Laura Oldenkamp - Learn how to divide dahlia tubers and best practices for winter storage. We will also share tips for growing dahlias. (TBA – October or November)

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