

# Clackamas County Chapter Chatter

YEAR IN REVIEW  
DECEMBER 2025



YOUR NEWS SOURCE FOR CHAPTER ACTIVITIES, PUBLISHED SIX TIMES A YEAR

## Chapter Resources: stay in the know

[www.cmastergardeners.org](http://www.cmastergardeners.org)

- [Chapter Officers and Executive Board](#)
- [Members Page](#)
  - [Chapter Handbook](#)
- [Calendar](#)
  - [Public Events Calendar](#)
  - [2026 Members Calendar](#)
- [Chapter Emails Archive](#)
- [Chapter Chatter Newsletter](#)
- [Membership Renewal](#)
- [Open Gardens](#)
- [OSU Metro MG Volunteer Reporting System](#)

## In Our Community

- [Garden Discovery Day](#)
- [Fall into Gardening](#)
- [Gray and Norrene Thompson Community Projects Grant](#)
- [Grow an Extra Row Giving & Learning Garden](#)
- [End of the Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden](#)
- [Hopkins Native Plant Garden](#)

## Spring Garden Fair

[www.springgardenfair.org](http://www.springgardenfair.org)

- [Volunteers Page](#)
  - Email: [volunteers@springgardenfair.org](mailto:volunteers@springgardenfair.org)
- [Spring Garden Fair Committee](#)
  - Email: [contact@springgardenfair.org](mailto:contact@springgardenfair.org)

## Newsletter Contact

- [contact@cmastergardeners.org](mailto:contact@cmastergardeners.org)

## Mobile View

- [Click here for the December easy-to-read mobile version](#)

## Introducing Our New Newsletter Format

We are pleased to introduce you to the newly revamped version of our Clackamas County Chatter – your news source for chapter activities, published six times a year.

Change is at the heart of growth, and with that in mind, we have redesigned our format to serve you better, make your reading experience more enjoyable, and ensure you stay informed and engaged with every issue.

### Our Goals

- Deliver timely, relevant information that keeps you up to date with the latest news and developments.
- Foster a sense of community by spotlighting member stories, achievements, reports from major committees and upcoming events.
- Provide valuable resources and articles to support your interests and growth.
- Establish a calendar for recurring events with appropriate links.

### What to Expect

We are committed to making this newsletter a valuable resource for you. Your participation and feedback are always welcome—please let us know what you think and what you'd like to see in future issues. Email us at [contact@cmastergardeners.org](mailto:contact@cmastergardeners.org). *Look for our new bi-monthly editions in 2026: New Year's, Spring, Summer, Late Summer, Fall and Year in Review.*

Thank you for being a valued member of our chapter. We look forward to this new format and to keeping you inspired and informed!

Your Chatter editors: *Sharon Andrews & Laura Eyer*

## Clackamas County Master Gardener Assoc. Year in Review

2025 was a busy and productive year for our chapter members. The chapter is involved in many activities and events throughout the year. We offer public education via 10-Minute University programs, and in-person events in the spring and fall: Garden Discovery Day, Spring Garden Fair and Fall into Gardening. We also offer free services with our Soil pH Testing and garden clinics, and food donations with our Grow an Extra Row gardens. Members have the choice to participate and volunteer at the End of the Oregon Trail in the Pioneer Garden or help maintain the gardens at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Countless hours are spent on these activities, and our community is better for it. Below is a summary of some of that work - but it is by no means the whole story. Volunteers are the heartbeat of our organization. We thank each and every one for their work on behalf of our chapter, no matter how big or small your participation is. [www.cmastergardeners.org](http://www.cmastergardeners.org)



## Garden Discovery Day and Fall into Gardening returned in 2025

Garden Discovery Day in March was a success, with three presentations that were well received. Fall Into Gardening, October 2025, closed the season on a high note. The presentations were engaging and created many comments and questions from the audience. The different features of the event were greatly appreciated: Ask A Master Gardner and Soil Testing are always the first to receive attention. Of course, any success would not have been possible without a great crew of volunteers! We are looking forward to Garden Discovery Day in March. If you are interested in helping out, please [contact Sandi Hartley](mailto:contact@cmastergardeners.org). *Webpages: [Garden Discovery Day](#) and [Fall into Gardening](#).*



**Soil Testing** received a new set of test equipment that was much needed. The purchase was facilitated by Sheryl Williams, who will be assisting the team in 2026. In all they tested 487 samples from 237 clients during Garden Discovery Day, Spring Garden Fair and Fall into Gardening. <https://springgardenfair.org/soil-testing/>



## Spring Garden Fair - Our Annual Fundraiser.

The 2025 Fair was a success measured by the following stats:

- 6813 (1264 more than 2024!)
- Saturday saw over 3000 folks through the gate, and our pre-sale program worked well for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- 198 volunteers filled 292 slots. This includes Master Gardeners and community members who stepped up to help out. (Thank you!)
- The Clinic had 434 people with questions, and we had 115 children stop by the newly renamed Kids Corner.
- Raffle sold 12,173 tickets
- 10-Minute University had 246 clients
- Soil Testing processed 407 samples from 198 clients
- Plant Check had 1066 customers.

And of course, we can't forget our vendors - there would be no Fair without them! Our numbers are beginning to reach pre-pandemic levels again - in all we had 133 vendors, up 14 from 2024. 28 of those were new to our fair. *A special thank you to the Vendor Sales team for all the hard work supporting this year's vendors.*

This year's fair took place amid construction at the Fairgrounds, but it was mostly smooth sailing. The weather could not have been more perfect with warm temperatures and mostly sunny skies. Your committee is hard at work planning our next event - so don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2026 Fair - May 2 & 3.

We need volunteers for these committees: Coffee and Volunteer/Vendor Break Room, Fairgrounds Liaison, and Gate Hospitality. Let us know if you'd like to join the team. Please contact *Cindy Manselle* with your questions.

[www.springgardenfair.org](http://www.springgardenfair.org)

## End of the Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden



Jane Collier & Sharon Andrews lead this committee. There is a great crew in place that are excited and engaged in the work that is done in the gardens and at the Interpretive Center. Volunteers are in the gardens every other Wednesday beginning on April 1 through October 29, usually 10 - noon.

This year we had 17 perennials and 2 interns working 19 days in the garden. We hosted two apple tree pruning workshops for the 2025 cohort, collected and packaged seeds for sale in the interpretive center and set up a clinic during the Three Rivers Guild Festival of the Arts in August. Additionally, a blog is available that provides updates on current activities as well as detailed information about the plant species and the historical background of the gardens.

<https://eotpioneer.garden.wordpress.com/>

## Native Plant Garden at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

This dedicated committee is responsible for overseeing the maintenance of three gardens.

- There is a native garden which has an informational kiosk with plant identification.
- The Everett Hall garden - this area was redesigned in 2024 with an emphasis on fire-wise landscaping. This year we added bark dust along with other tweaks and modifications as needed. In 2026 there are plans to evaluate the irrigation system and make needed adjustments.
- We have also begun maintaining the area around the Molalla log house in the forest.

Other committee activities include Tree School in the spring for Clackamas Community College and an OSU Extension clinic. This usually involves 11 volunteers/ 30+ hours.

At Spring Garden Fair, we put together an educational exhibit in the 4H Building that includes information on native plants and their



advantages along with a display on fire-wise landscaping. The group was also involved with tours of Mary's Woods and the Hopkins Demo Forest along with hosting a regional Metro Master Gardener meeting in August. In all, volunteers worked 158 hours in 2025.

Work parties are groups of around 4 - 8 volunteers. Workdays are on the third Monday of the month, April through October for 2 – 3 hours. If you would like to be involved, please contact *Janna Christensen* or just stop by! <https://cmastergardeners.org/hopkins-garden/>

## Open Gardens



This fun activity started back up again two years ago, headed by Nancy Cutler. It's been a slow start, with only three gardens to be seen in 2025 - Nancy Cutler's Daffodil Meadow in spring, Oak Grove Garden Club's Risley Landing Garden and Sherry Sheng's garden in the summer.

Please consider opening your garden to visitors in 2026.

It's a great way to meet chapter members on your own turf! Our gardens exhibit a diverse range of styles and interests, embodying the ever-evolving nature of gardening. Gardening is an ongoing process, not a competition-there are no judges involved. If you are hesitant about opening your garden, rest assured that every garden enthusiast finds it invaluable and delightful. Please contact *Nancy Cutler* with any questions. There is more information on the website: <https://cmastergardeners.org/opengardens/>

## Grow an Extra Row Giving and Learning Garden

As in previous years we donated to two food pantries in Oregon City: First Baptist H.O.P.E. Pantry and First Presbyterian H.O.P.E. Pantry. All the vegetables are grown from seed or transplants. Many of the transplants are grown by volunteers and planted in 29 garden beds.



• This year we grew, harvested, and donated 4,059 pounds of organically grown produce from the garden.

• Donated produce of 1,590 pounds was also delivered to the two food pantries.

• In total 5,649.69 pounds of produce was donated in 2025. (Approximately 1,000 pounds more than in 2024).

- There were over 40 volunteers in the garden, Master Gardeners (including interns) and public gardeners.
- Master Gardener volunteers continue to raise starts for the garden, in addition to being volunteers at the garden.
- Total volunteer hours in the garden: 1,703.50.
- The group also hosted a hands-on workshop for interns with 11 in attendance.

You can read all about the history of this amazing project here: [History of Grow an Extra Row](#).

To get involved with this project please send an email to [cmsgextrarow@gmail.com](mailto:cmsgextrarow@gmail.com).

More information: <https://cmastergardeners.org/grow-an-extra-row>

## Gray and Norrene Thompson Community Grants Project

The purpose of this project is to broaden Clackamas County Master Gardener Association's community service by providing seed money for projects which further the use of plants as food, as tools for education, as benefits to the environment, and as a means to beautify the community. This year's grant summary:

- Embrace Compassion used a \$750 grant to improve barn and garden storage at their small urban teaching farm in Sherwood where kids with cancer, and their siblings and parents, can take a break from trauma, play safely, and just be kids. *Mary Culshaw and Justin Dune, sponsoring Master Gardeners.*

A reminder that our chapter grant program (the Gray & Norrene Thompson Community Projects Grant Program) makes grants of up to \$750 available to gardening-related projects that empower Clackamas Master Gardeners to make a positive contribution in the community. Got a project idea? Contact chairperson Justin Dune at [jdbizmail@gmail.com](mailto:jdbizmail@gmail.com) for advice and help in getting the ball rolling.

[https://cmastergardeners.org/graythompson\\_communityprojects](https://cmastergardeners.org/graythompson_communityprojects)

## 10-Minute University™



Our 10-Minute University team works tirelessly producing content to educate the public. They are involved in public online webinars, written handouts, articles, hands-on seminars to educate Master Gardeners and in-person talks to the public throughout the year. In total, contacts for 2025 was 19,009 people. This breaks down to 18,423 attending webinars, 243 questions answered via email and Spring Garden Fair classes attended by 343. Please see the [September newsletter](#), page 4, for a description of the in person workshops organized by this committee. *Below is a summary of attendance:*

- Rose Pruning - 15
- Renovate Mature Apple Trees/spring and summer sessions - 26 total for both sessions
- Insect ID - 20
- Tree ID - 9
- Pollinator Garden - 10
- Berry Workshop - 18
- No attendance info is available for the following: Tips for Vegetable Gardening, Introduction to GEAR two sessions, Gardening for Wildlife, Forest Hike, Putting the Vegetable Patch to Bed, Dahlia: Culture and Tuber Divisions

Of course, these numbers do not really give the whole picture of what this group does for our community. When we say countless hours, we really mean it!

There are many moving parts to this committee including speakers creating content that includes handouts, articles, and presentations - all of which are all peer-reviewed and edited for clarity. There is also a publicity team that takes care of getting the word out via the chapter webpage, social media, OSU outlets and other organizations in our area. And a newsletter goes out monthly that includes info on the webinars and much more.

There is also a team that produces and presents the webinars via Zoom. Nineteen were presented in 2025 and seventeen are slated for the 2026 Let's Grow Together series beginning on January 7.

We are all looking forward to seeing what is coming in the new year. Thank you all for your efforts, your excellence, and your gift to the community.

The website has all the information on the webinars and much more: <https://cmastergardeners.org/10-minute-university>

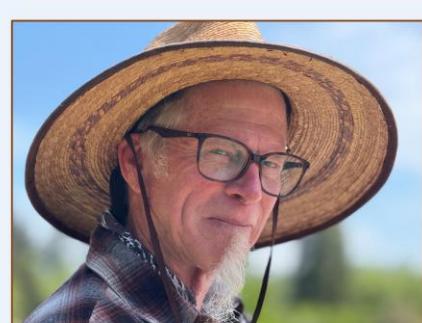
## Master Gardener Volunteers *Honored*

## Congratulations to our Fellow Chapter Members

We have two programs for honoring our outstanding members: The Green Glove Award is given semi-monthly - check out this year's winners and past honorees as well on the website:  [Green Glove Award](#). We also honor the best of the best annually at our Joy of Gardening conference in the summer. See our [September Newsletter](#) for details about this year's awardees, pictured below.



**2025 Master Gardeners of the Year**  
Awardees are Amelia and John Wilbur



**Our County Behind the Scenes**  
Award went to Kirk Pearson



**County Growing and Belonging**  
was given to Nancy Muir

In October the Chapter recognized our long-term members, pictured below. You can also read a complete list of these dedicated folks in the [September Newsletter](#).

## *Chapter Members are Recognized for 20 Plus Years Serving as Master Gardener Volunteers*



Left to right & top to bottom: Cindy Manselle, Marianne Kahl, Dick Nelson, Kathy Long, Rodger Sanman, Margueritte Kosovich, Sherry Sheng, Jean Erikson, Jeanie Mattern, Janet Weber, Dianna Nelson, Sherry Uchytil



40-year Recipient

Gretchen O'Brien



Left to right: Richard Rolloff, Harry Wise, Sherry Holley, Rene Metter, Micky Becker

*Thank you For Your Service to our Chapter*

## 2026 Executive Board Elected!

• <b>President:</b> Priscilla Robinson	• <b>Vice President:</b> Justin Dunne
• <b>Secretary:</b> Carol Holdt	• <b>Treasurer:</b> Seamus Ramírez
• <b>Assistant Treasurer:</b> Rhonda Frick-Wright	• <b>Advisor:</b> Helen Watt
• <b>Advisor:</b> Amelia Wilbur	• <b>Advisor:</b> Jane Collier
• <b>OMGA Representative:</b> Barb Seekins	• <b>Alternate OMGA Rep:</b> <i>vacant</i>

*Congratulations to all and thank you for your service to our chapter.*

Directories will be available in early 2026. See the [Membership Renewal Page](#) for information on how to pay, and how to update your contact information if needed.



10-Minute University's "Let's Grow Together" webinars premier on January 7. Help us get the word out and tell your friends! Find all the details on their webpage:

<https://cmastergardeners.org/10-minute-university>

*Your creative team at the Chapter Chatter has something new for you:  
A mobile version of the Chatter.*

Each month we will create a version that is easy to view on your mobile devices. This is a text only version of our newsletter formatted to be easier to read on these tiny screens we love so much! Check it out & let us know what you think.

[Mobile Clackamas County Chatter](#)

