



# Clackamas County *Chapter Chatter*

LATE WINTER  
FEBRUARY 2026



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

We are pleased to introduce you to the newly revamped version of our Clackamas County Chatter – your news source for chapter activities. We will publish six times a year; late Winter, Spring, Summer, late Summer, Fall and a Year in Review in December. 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). 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 *Laura Eyer & Sharon Andrews*

## **Clackamas County Master Gardener Association Donations**

Our fundraising efforts in 2025 enabled us to make several year-end donations directly to worthy programs and organizations in our local community.

- \$5,000 to the OSU Garden Ecology Lab, a program which does research on topics relevant to home gardeners.
- \$5,000 to the Clackamas Community College Miken Scholarship Endowment Fund for students in the horticulture program.
- \$3,000 to Milwaukie Community Center in support of their efforts in our community.
- \$2,000 to Oregon Extension in support the Master Gardener program.
- \$300 to Oregon Garden Club Association for a Gold Star Monument at Willamette Cemetery honoring veterans who are MIA or died in the line of duty.

For more information about these annual donations please contact a member of our [Executive Board](#).

**Garden Discovery Day happens on Saturday,  
March 28, 2026 @ 9:00 am**

Garden Discovery Day is an annual event for the public and a good way for Master Gardeners to log continuing education hours. This event offers a range of educational and engaging topics

geared for the coming season. Featured are three 45-minute sessions on seasonal topics and 3-d interactive displays on subjects like tomato cultivation, blueberry care, soil preparation, ornamental planting, and tool maintenance. We also have pH soil testing, and an experts table for live gardening advice. Our chapter has sponsored this free event for over 15 years, with a pause during Covid, and starting back up in 2022.

Speaker selection for the March 2026 program is underway. Check the newsletter, emails, or OSU Metro for updates. Volunteers are needed - contact us if you're interested. Email link: [Sandi Hartley](#). Webpages: [Garden Discovery Day](#) and [Fall into Gardening](#).

### **Seed to Supper: An OSU Program focused on reducing food insecurity**

Seed to Supper is an introductory vegetable gardening program for adults with limited budgets. Created in 2007 by the Oregon Food Bank and Oregon State University, the Oregon

Food Bank managed it until 2020. In 2023, administration shifted to OSU Extension due to increased food delivery demands, and the program officially relaunched under OSU Extension in 2024.

The course runs for six weeks, typically meeting on the same day and time each week, with sessions lasting 1.5 to 2 hours. The format includes PowerPoint presentations, demonstrations, class activities, and Q&A sessions. Students participate in firsthand activities either in the classroom or garden, depending on availability and weather conditions. The ideal training season spans six weeks from March through May. Certified Master Gardeners serve as trainers, with three trainers per team being optimal. The curriculum covers everything from initial garden preparation and cool-season gardening to the planting of warm-season crops.

Planning is underway for the 2026 Seed to Supper program in Clackamas County. To become a trainer or for more information, email

<mailto:CCMGS2S@gmail.com>. Learn more at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/seed-supper>

# PLEASE DONATE



You're welcome to donate garden tools to support Seed to Supper participants. We gladly accept long handled and hand tools that are in good condition and suitable for small food gardens. New gloves are always in demand. Please bring donations to Association meetings in February or March. For more information, contact Bill Dixon at [wtdixon3@gmail.com](mailto:wtdixon3@gmail.com)

## **Seed Donation from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds**

We have received a seed donation from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds in Missouri. They specialize in heirloom and rare seeds. We received 81 packets: 10 packets of herbs, 22

packets of flowers, and 50 packets of vegetables. The estimated retail value is \$328.

Let Bill Dixon ([wtdixon3@gmail.com](mailto:wtdixon3@gmail.com)) know if you are interested in any seeds from Baker Creek. There are about 300 seed packets left over from the prior three years of seed donations. Most of these will be used for Seed to Supper in 2026 but let him know if you need some for other programs.

We will also be donating another 150 seed packets from 2022 to the Oregon City Seed Library. Limited random testing still shows germination rates above 50%, sometimes still as high as 80%.

This past year, we distributed about 600 packets to:

- Seed to Supper participants
- Community gardens (Pioneer Community Center; and other gardeners at Westmoreland Manor, Hillside Manor, and Los Flores)
- OSU tabling events

- Clackamas County Master Gardener Association
- Oregon City Seed Library



## **10-Minute University™ Turns 20!**

With the arrival of 2026, 10-Minute University, our flagship education program, turns 20. The idea for 10-Minute University started when Bill Bradley, an OSU Master Gardener and member of the Clackamas County Master Gardener Association, asked, “Why don’t we offer gardening classes at the Spring Garden Fair?” Bill took this suggestion to the Fair’s planning committee and successfully got their approval.

10-minute classes debuted at the 2006 Fair. Audience evaluation makes it clear that we had a winner! (see article on the right)

In the following years, Sherry Sheng assembled a team to expand the program. Classes were regularly held at the Oregon City Farmers' Market, gardening shows, and chapter events like Garden Discovery Day and Fall into Gardening, which increased awareness of OSU Master Gardeners and the Clackamas Master Gardener Association.

As our client base expanded, it became increasingly apparent that access to our services was limited. No single time could accommodate the needs of all interested participants. To address this challenge and enhance accessibility to our educational content, 10-Minute University developed a comprehensive library of handouts and videos.

These resources were created with the valuable support of Oregon State University faculty—each

handout undergoes OSU review and approval—and the Clackamas County Government Public Affairs team, who produce videos based on our content.

When COVID began, 10-Minute University shifted to webinars in 2021 to reach more clients. These webinars provide gardening science to thousands and serve as a primary source of Master Gardener continuing education.

The 10-Minute U team is excited for a successful season ahead. Members of the current team include Amelia Wilbur, Barb Valdez, Carol Holdt, Carole Hardy, Cheryl Borden, Debby Deering, Diane Drebin, Frank Wille, Jane Collier, Janna Christensen, Justin Dune, Karen Day, Kelly Welch, Laura Eyer, Lauren Murphy, Leah Puhlman, Linda Baity, Michelle Morley, Pam Martin, Peggy Planton, Pennie Isbell, Priscilla Robinson, Sarah Wiley, Sharon Andrews, and Sherry Sheng.

How can you help? Visit this webpage (<https://cmastergardeners.org/10-minute->

[university/](#))of offerings, tell your friends about them, and join us for a webinar or class. Let's Grow Together!

## **Your Chapter Printed Directory Drops in February**

The directory team has been hard at work compiling an updated list of chapter members and refreshing the details about our chapter. Frank will have the printed copies available at the February 9 chapter meeting. The printed copy includes chapter and OSU program info, information about our members, a listing of current chapter committees and their members, and a chapter calendar. It's a nice road map of our organization in a portable format!

**The Chapter Online Handbook** - Always available to you in a printer friendly format: our complete online handbook. This online publication is all about the Clackamas County Master Gardener Association. It includes executive board info, committee lists, chapter resources, By-Laws and

Policies & Procedures, and OSU program info. It is the most up-to-date information about the chapter and is presented in a print-friendly format if you choose to print a hard copy.

[Handbook Link](#)

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10-Minute University's "Let's Grow Together" webinars continue through April. Help us get the word

out and tell your friends! Find all the details on the webpage:

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

Open *Gardens* 

**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/>

For full color copy of the newsletter with photos please click here:

<https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/chapter-chatter-monthly-news/>

## **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)

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**President:** Priscilla Robinson • **Vice President:** Justin Dune

**Secretary:** Carol Holdt **Treasurer:** Seamus Ramirez

**Assistant Treasurer:** Rhonda Frick-Wright

**Advisors:** Amelia Wilbur, Helen Watt, Jane Collier

**Newsletter:** Laura Eyer, Sharon Andrews

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