



# Clackamas County *Chapter Chatter*

SPRING GARDEN  
FAIR APRIL 2026



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

This edition is all about Spring Garden Fair, its beginnings, behind the scenes and where you fit in. *Look for our next publication in June for the summer edition.* As always, your participation and feedback are always welcome. Email us at [contact@cmastergardeners.org](mailto:contact@cmastergardeners.org). Thank you for being a valued member of our chapter. Your Chatter editors: *Sharon Andrews & Laura Eyer*

## **The Beginning**

It's 1984, and the newly formed Clackamas County Master Gardener Association wants to raise money for a scholarship program at Clackamas Community College. The first fair was the Spring Fling Fuchsia Sale. By the second year, it was renamed to **Spring Garden Fair**, there were just 20 vendors, and we were off and running!

Spring Garden Fair has become an annual event loved by many in the metropolitan area and our vendors now number in the 120's. Most of us

know someone who counts on getting their tomatoes from Uncle Wayne's or another clematis from Rogerson Clematis Garden. I look in my garden at plants, yard art and pots purchased at Spring Fair over the years.

## How Can You Help?

- ✓ **Raffle needs your donations.** Marianne Kahl will be accepting garden related donations at the chapter meeting in April, and during set up the week before the fair. Donate a pretty vase, pot or garden book no longer needed. (only like new items please). Would you be willing to purchase an item? Plants from a nursery, gloves, hand tools, seeds, plant tags, garden stakes, gift cards are great ideas too.
- ✓ **The Master Gardener and Vendor Break Room** is fueled by your food donations. Think quick snacks like cookies, uncut brownies, muffins, coffee cakes (store bought or homemade are options). And chips, crackers, fruit, cheeses, salami and/or veggies are also great! Please contact Amelia Wilbur with more questions. PS. Amelia is also looking for

an assistant - please consider joining our Spring Garden Fair committee.

- ✓ **Volunteer.** Sign up for a volunteer shift, or maybe two. It's a great way to get to know your fellow Master gardeners. An additional perk is free entrance to the fair. And you will have the thanks of our chapter for spending your time with us on our big weekend

### **Vendors: We Can't Do It Without You!**

Many of you have attended Spring Garden Fair, many have even volunteered! But do you know what it takes “behind the scenes” to recruit and keep our fantastic vendor partners?

There is much that goes on prior to the big weekend; in fact, preparations begin in January when Kathy Krentz, our vendor sales chair, begins sifting through vendor applications, plans the layout and coordinates with the printing and publicity team on maps, communications, and advertising. The week before the fair you can find the whole team on the ground in Canby assisting with field set up and then guiding the vendors to their designated spaces for the two-day sale.

Several of our vendors have been with us for 25 years or more. So many have told us this is their

favorite sale to attend during the busy spring season. What keeps bringing them back?

We make ourselves available to answer any questions year-round, not just during the fair, and we do our best to keep the good vibes going by working to keep them in their usual spaces or honor special requests to maximize their profits. We strive to keep them informed of what they need for a successful sale and how to set up and breakdown for our unique venue. We also try to keep them hydrated and “well-snacked” during the fair with a roving snack wagon and a private break room in Horning Hall.

We don't miss any opportunity to let them know how much they mean to us and that they are integral to our fair - so when you are at the fair, and especially if you are on volunteer duty wearing your badge, please thank our wonderful vendors. They work so hard and deserve all our appreciation!

## **Garden Fair Raffle: A Perennial Favorite**

The Raffle has been a vital part of the Spring Garden Fair since 1986. With four drawings per day and a target of 100 winning numbers per drawing, we need over 800 prizes to give away.

All prizes are donated and come from many sources. Our vendors are very generous, with some donating multiple items. Contact is made to non-vendor nurseries, local businesses, restaurants, you-our Master Gardener community, and other places that might be willing to donate a prize. We also receive plants grown by the Horticulture Department at Clackamas Community College, and Franklin High School donates Mason Bee houses made by students. In recent years prizes have been placed in bags, creating an air of mystery.

Volunteers begin setting up for the fair by sorting and bagging items in the days before the gates open. We have many “regulars” purchasing large quantities of tickets to both support our chapter and increase their chances of winning.

It's fun to watch the buzz on the fairgrounds after the first drawing is held and folks move to the ticket postings in anticipation of winning something special for their home or garden. How can you help? See notices in this newsletter for details on donating prizes and think about signing up to help out either before or during the fair. It's a good spot to volunteer with a covered, shady area and interaction with excited fairgoers.

**We Need You! Please Volunteer for Spring Garden Fair Beginning on April 29 through May 3 (until after the gates close).**

This wonderful event wouldn't be possible without the help of many volunteers, most of whom are Master Gardeners and their friends. In 2025, 175 people gave their time to volunteer for at least one of the five days—three for preparation and two for the sale. We'll need just as many this year. Recruiting began in early February, but we still need additional support. There are plenty of ways to volunteer - here are just a few:

- ❖ Working Plant Check gives you a chance to see all the unique plants people buy
- ❖ Gate Hospitality is a fantastic way to welcome fairgoers
- ❖ Raffle Sales and Pickup are lively spots—the Raffle itself is an important fundraiser during the Fair

We offer many more excellent volunteer opportunities. In addition to earning Master Gardener partner hours, volunteers get FREE admission to the Fair and the chance to shop for themselves. Please consider signing up for a shift and ask a family member or friend to join us - we also welcome non-Master Gardener volunteers to our sale.

- Read more about our volunteer shifts on [the Volunteers Page](#) (click link, or on the webpage the link is on the right menu, and on your mobile scroll to the bottom of the page).
- Here is the link to [sign up via Sign-Up Genius](#).

*See you at the Fair 😊*

*Saturday, May 2 from 9am to 5pm*

*Sunday, May 3 from 9am to 4pm*

# Open Gardens

It's that time of year to start thinking about opening your garden! It's so enjoyable to visit, chat, gather new ideas and fresh inspiration from fellow garden enthusiasts. Remember, everyone's garden is "ever evolving" and "forever changing". If you're interested in welcoming visitors to your space, please contact Nancy Cutler 503-705-9730. *Happening now:* a notable field of daffodils blooms each spring at the Park at Merryfield in Wilsonville. Nancy Cutler initiated the planting of daffodils in the meadow behind her residence. Now there are over 15,000 daffodils, plus crocuses and hyacinth bulbs. April is a great time for visitors to enjoy all the flowers. Coming in June we have the Italianate garden of Tina Mori on Hilltop Road in Oregon City. The garden will open on Friday evening, June 26th, 5 pm - 9 pm and on Saturday, June 27th, 11 am to dark. *Look for more details on this lovely garden in June announcements.*

•••• In Other *News* ••••

## 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 the chapter meetings in February or March. For more information, contact Bill Dixon at [wtdixon3@gmail.com](mailto:wtdixon3@gmail.com)



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>

## Getting to know your chapter website: The Spring Garden Fair page

This page is a roadmap for all things Spring Garden Fair with info for and about our vendors, our activities, our venue, the volunteers and SGF Committee. It is designed to make it easy for the public, and for you, to keep current about our Fair. Information is updated and current by mid-April, and throughout the year as well. Check it out and share this information with your friends and family. [www.springgardenfair.org](http://www.springgardenfair.org)

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)