

Clackamas County *Chapter Chatter*

SUMMER
JUNE 2026



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

Here is our summer edition, with news about a brand-new microscope, July outing and activities planned for this summer. Look for our next publication in August - the late summer edition. As always, your participation and feedback are welcome. Email us at

contact@cmastergardeners.org. Thank you for being a valued member of our chapter. Your Chatter editors: *Laura Eyer & Sharon Andrews*

Spring Garden Fair Review

The gates have closed and the story for the 2026 Spring Garden Fair has been written. We hosted 147 vendors this year and welcomed over 6600 shoppers in our 42nd year. With the addition of 182 Master Gardener/friends and family volunteers we had over 7000 folks in attendance this year.

Our vendors were pleased with their sales, and the customers had a great time shopping,

browsing Exhibit Hall and of course, winning raffle prizes! Raffle sold over 12,000 tickets, Clinic saw 445 contacts and 10-Minute University held 19 classes for 662 curious gardeners. Kid's Corner had over 100 visitors - many were repeats from last year, the kids and adults alike enjoyed this year's projects.

There were 312 volunteer shifts, that's a lot of numbers to take in - let me add a few more to the story - 135 Perennial volunteers, 28 Interns and 19 Friends/Family showed up during the fair from Tuesday to Sunday evening. (And that doesn't count the 35 members of the planning committee).

The story isn't complete without mentioning the clear, sunny weather. Saturday was perfect - and even though Sunday afternoon was on the warm side it didn't dampen our spirits much. It's always satisfying to host such a successful event. We will take a much-deserved break this summer and begin to plan our 2027 Fair in September.

Our committee does have need for volunteers, so consider joining us. Fresh ideas and new faces are always welcome, and all our meetings are open to chapter members either to lend a hand on one of the committees or if you just want to observe. See your email for more information in the coming months or contact Cindy Manselle. We will see you next year - May 1 & 2, 2027.

www.springgardenfair.org

Open Gardens

We have so many talented gardeners in our group; we would love to see your garden space! Picture a warm summer day in a pretty garden, visitors strolling along paths chatting and admiring the interesting plants growing in the sun (or the shade).

If you're interested in welcoming visitors to your space, please contact Nancy Cutler 503-705-9730. More details can be found on our page:

www.cmastergardeners.org/opengardens/

Coming in June: **Saturday, June 13**, the Portland garden of Larry D. Teeter. They moved into their Portland home in August 2017 after translocating from Texas. His garden received Backyard

Habitat Gold certification in the fall of 2018 and features numerous wildlife feeders, water sources, tree rounds, and brush piles throughout the property.

Friday and Saturday, June 26 & 27, Tina Mori will share her Oregon City garden with our lucky members. The old Italianate style throughout makes an impressive space; especially because all the work has been done in a span of only thirteen years! The garden will be open in the afternoon as well as in the evening.

Look for more details on these gardens in the June email chapter announcements

A New Window into the Tiny World of Garden Pests

Thanks to a generous gift from the Clackamas County Master Gardener Association, the OSU Extension Master Gardener office in Oregon City now has a new digital microscope. The AmScope stereo microscope features an adjustable ring light, a range of magnification settings, and the ability to view specimens either through traditional eyepieces or directly on a connected computer monitor.

The new microscope greatly enhances our ability to assist community clients who drop off specimens for identification. Many garden pests and disease signs and symptoms are too small to see with the naked eye with sufficient detail for identification. The microscope brings these details into clear focus. In addition to live viewing, the microscope's camera allows volunteers to capture close-up digital photos of the specimens. These photos allow volunteers to share what they are seeing with other Master Gardeners and OSU specialists for faster, more accurate diagnoses.

Photographs also play an important role in the office's digital record-keeping. The helpline uses a system called Infinity to track questions and responses from community clients. Images captured through the AmScope software can be saved and attached directly to a client's Infinity ticket, creating a detailed visual record of the specimen examined. Beyond helping individual community clients, the digital microscope offers broader utility for our educational mission.

Volunteers can use the live monitor display to teach people exactly what makes an insect a beneficial predator or what a fungal leaf spot

looks like up close. We can also use captured images to build a training library for new volunteers or use them to enhance classes, workshops, and fact sheets.

The digital microscope can be seen as powerful and versatile tool that, when combined with Master Gardeners' training on research-based diagnostic methods, make our volunteers faster, more accurate, and more effective educators in service to community clients in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties.

July Outing- Hopkins Demonstration Forest

On July 13th from 6pm-8pm, Chapter members and their guests are invited to the Hopkins Demonstration Forest at 16750 Brockway Road, Oregon City. If you have never been there, you are in for a treat. There will be lots to see and do while we are there.

- A light dinner will be available at the outdoor covered Poppino Family Pavilion

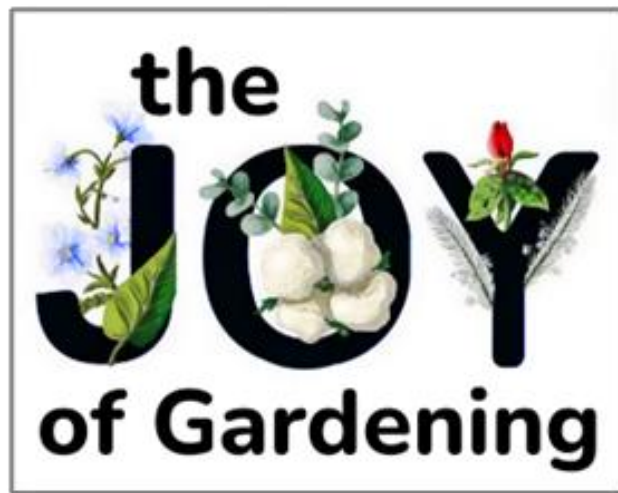
- Walk the trails that take you through the forest where you can stop and read the many informational signs, and watch the frogs and salamanders in the ponds. Use the new Hopkins trail app for trail directions. Or if you prefer, you can take the van ride down through the forest.
- Visit the Log House which is estimated to be over 200 years old and constructed sometime around 1790. This historic structure that predates Lewis and Clarks visit, could be the oldest remaining log house in Oregon.
- Take a tour through Everett Hall, the full-service event and meeting facility with a large stone fireplace, old milling equipment and a beautiful view of the forest from the outdoor deck. Also see the newly renovated and Firewise landscaping done by our own Master Gardeners.
- Walk to the top of the fire tower that was originally constructed in 1954 as the Clatskanie Mountain Fire Lookout. Restoration of the fire tower was moved to Hopkins and completed in 2021.

- Take a stroll through the Native Plant Garden which was developed and is maintained by Clackamas County Master Gardeners.
- Take a look at the small band sawmill and other woodworking tools that are used to convert some of the logs in the forest into lumber and then used in the buildings at Hopkins.
- There is even a Sugar Shack where they make maple syrup from the sap of the maple trees in the forest.

Forests Forever Inc. operates Hopkins Demonstration Forest, a 140-acre privately owned public access woodland which focuses on education, sustainable forestry and recreation.

<https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/hopkins-garden/>

In Other *News*



Oregon Master Gardener Assoc presents The Joy of Gardening. Friday and Saturday, July 10 & 11 @ the OSU campus in Corvallis. Join us for two days of research-based classes, tours and panels on all things gardening. This two-day event is open to the public as well as Master Gardeners. Early bird special until June 20 – Just \$50.00! <https://omga.org/joy-of-gardening-2026/>



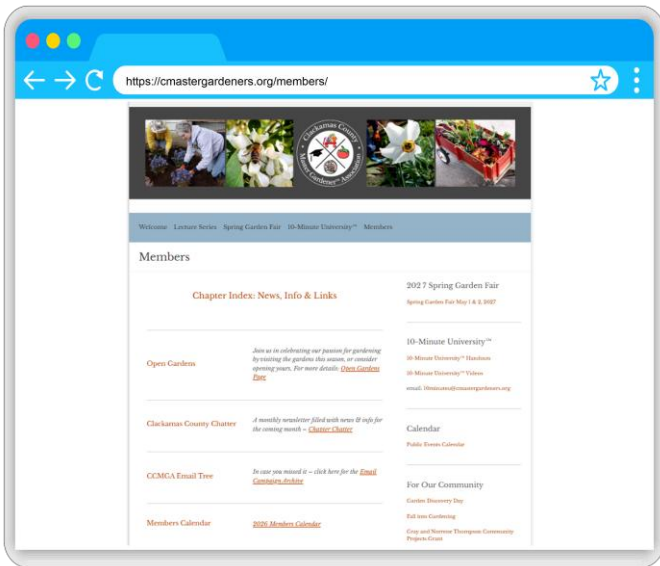
Quest for 50 Tons of Produce Donations In 2026, the OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program celebrates 50 years of growing gardening knowledge, partnerships, and community across Oregon. As part of this commemoration, it's hoped that we can reach a goal

of 50 tons of food/produce donations. To donate your extra produce please bring it to Grow an Extra Row by 9:40 am on their Tuesday or Friday workday. GAER will record the weight of your donation and take it to the local food bank. Click for more info about Grow an Extra Row.

Are you building community and connections through gardening? We would love to share your stories of community and connection.

Please email leann.ocher@oregonstate.edu if you would like to share your story.

Getting to know your chapter website: The Members Page



The Chatter lives on this page along with information about chapter news, events and information. Looking for the Open Gardens page?

It's here! Also, past issues of our CCMGA email announcements - just a click away. We have calendars, info on paying your dues, and Chapter History and Awards. Do you have questions about how the chapter works? This is where you will find the chapter Handbook, Bi-Laws and info for in-coming Master Gardeners too.

It's all located here:

www.cmastergardeners.org/members/

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

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

Chapter Resources: *stay in the know*

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

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

Newsletter Contact

- contact@cmastergardeners.org

President: Priscilla Robinson

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Assistant Treasurer: Rhonda Frick-Wright

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Newsletter: Laura Eyer, Sharon Andrews
