

Clackamas County Chapter Chatter

LATE SUMMER
AUGUST 2026



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

Chapter Resources: *stay in the know*

www.cmastergardeners.org

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Spring Garden Fair

www.springgardenfair.org

➤ [Volunteers Page](#)

- Email: volunteers@springgardenfair.org

➤ [Spring Garden Fair Committee](#)

- Email: contact@springgardenfair.org

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- contact@cmastergardeners.org

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Hello garden friends! It's time for our late summer check-in with news about the Chapter Picnic, checking in with summer volunteer activities, and a short story about our chapter outing in July. *Look for our next publication - the Autumn edition, in October.*

Your Chatter editors: *Laura Eyer & Sharon Andrews*

Cheers to 50 Years - our Annual Chapter Picnic



Saturday, September 12 from 5pm to 7pm. Chapter members, friends, and family are all invited! This year we celebrate 50 years of the Master Gardener™ Program here in Oregon. Join us to commemorate this great organization that's changed so many lives since its beginnings in 1976.

- The chapter will provide fresh grilled sausage with all the fixings, water, lemonade and iced tea. *To help reduce landfill waste we ask that you bring your own place settings.*
- Please bring a side dish to share - think summer fare like salads, baked beans, fresh fruit and vegetables. And don't forget yummy desserts if that's your specialty!

Bring some favorite memories from the past about your Master Gardener experience to share. There will be door prizes, fun activities, a photo booth and of course, Rhonda will lead us in a sing-along. Location will be the [Milwaukie Center Pavilion](#). Be on the lookout for an Evite - your RSVP will help us to plan accordingly. We hope to see you all there.



Chapter Outing in July @ Hopkins Demonstration Forest

We welcomed 65 folks to our event in the forest. There were tours of the 200 years old log house, the tall fire tower with views of the surrounding forest, the Native Plant Garden and Everette Hall gardens that are tended by our own Clackamas Chapter volunteers. A simple supper was served in the pavilion where friends had the chance to catch up and enjoy a meal together. Thank you to Jane Collier for organizing this event, and for the regular Native Plant volunteers along with the Forest Forever volunteers for helping out!

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



Log House



Fire Tower View



Karen and Tina



Marianne



Log House



Fire Tower



Sugarbush in the maple grove



Dinner in the Pavilion

Summer is about sunshine, and spending time in the garden getting our hands dirty. Our chapter organizes volunteering in three gardens in our county, each with very different goals. It's time to check in with those gardens and see how their summer is going: End of the Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden, Grown an Extra Row and the folks at the Native Plant Garden at Hopkins.

End of the Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden on Washington Street in Oregon City

This garden is all about history. They grow plants that were used by the emigrants traveling the Oregon Trail in the 1860's to the 1890's. The gardens are a teaching tool for the public with visitors from all over the country during the summer and beyond. The plants are open pollinated and allowed to go to seed. The harvested seeds are sold in the Interpretive Center's gift shop and support garden activities and our chapter. Read more about the gardens via their blog page: <https://eotpioneergarden.wordpress.com/>



The roses bloomed a bit early this year and were spectacular. Mark your calendar for May next year and try to make time for a visit! Volunteers are in the gardens every other Wednesday, and love visitors.

In the spring the team constructed a much-needed hops trellis using funds raised from seed sales. The new trellis has been well received, and the hops seem very happy with their new home and are growing rapidly!



Since volunteers are in the garden only twice a month or so pests can be an issue. This year's efforts have been pretty successful at keeping the rabbits at bay - several twig fences and trellises have been made for the climbing plants.



The heirloom flower garden is in full bloom right now. Seeds are collected during every workday and make up the majority of the seed sales. You can see bright zinnias, calendula, marigolds, and columbine in the spring. There are perennial flowers like feverfew and hollyhocks too. Some vegetables are harvested, but the goal of seed production does limit how much. What has been harvested has been donated to local food banks via our Grow an Extra Row volunteers. (see article below)



The crew at the Pioneer garden is a lively group, headed by the team of Sharon Andrews and Jane Collier. We would like to thank everyone that comes by for their dedication and hard work. If you want to volunteer just show up in the gardens on one of their workdays, listed on their blog page or here: <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/end-of-the-oregon-trail-pioneer-garden/>

Grow an Extra Row @ CCC Campus in Oregon City

The garden has been growing and giving for over 20 years. The mission at Grow an Extra Row (GAER) is a simple one: to grow healthy food for donation at local food pantries. All of the vegetables are grown from seed or transplants, and many of the transplants are grown by our volunteers. <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/grow-an-extra-row/>



The garden season began in April with bed prep and early season planting. In addition to vegetables the team also grows an assortment of herbs for donation, which is greatly appreciated by the pantries. In May bok choy was the first vegetable harvested! By the end of May early season veggies were being harvested weekly, and by the beginning of June donations began to exceed 100 pounds.

A workshop for the 2026 Interns was held at the end of May. Included in this workshop: how to monitor the planted vegetable beds for insect damage, moisture, integrated pest management, and herb garden care.



Also covered was info on growing cucumbers including installation of the cucumber support structure, planting bean seeds, making and using seed tape; and proper composting methods.

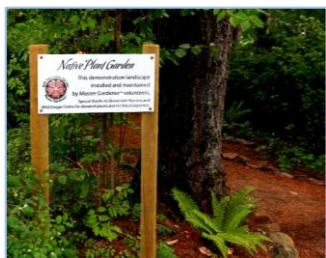


Produce donations have exceeded 150 pounds weekly during June and July. Along with GAER vegetables, we have been taking in donations from our community. If you are interested in dropping off your excess produce, please bring it by the garden on workdays. Make sure your donation is clearly labeled with your first and last name and placed in disposable packaging (paper bags). Please drop off all donations by 9:30 am to allow us time to process and weigh your donation before it heads to the food pantry.

As of the end of July GAER has donated 1797 pounds to the pantries, along with 888 pounds donated from the community to total 2685 pounds. Remember, every seed planted makes a difference.

You can find volunteers in the garden on Tuesdays & Fridays, 8am-11am. To volunteer you need only to show up & stay as long as you can - no need to sign up. (located in the Clackamas Community College Environmental Learning Center Community Garden)

Native Plant Garden at Hopkins Demonstration Forest



Earlier this summer we all had the opportunity to see the results of our volunteer crew's hard work on the grounds at Hopkins forest during our summer outing in July. This small but mighty team meet on

the third Monday of the month, April through October for 2 – 3 hours. They are tasked with maintaining the native plant garden and the fire wise garden around Everett Hall. They have created a welcoming habitat for visitors to explore, with interpretive signage and clear pathways.

Even though the team is only on site once a month, the grounds are open year-round for exploration by the public. The numerous walking paths are wonderful for just getting out into the forest and are open during daylight hours.



You are invited to join us on our next workday - no need to sign up, or just come and check out the trails, and look through the native garden. Hopkins Demonstration Forest: 16750 S Brockway Road in Oregon City
<https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/hopkins-garden/>

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Planning has begun for *Fall into Gardening* on Saturday, October 10, 2026

Our team is hard at work putting together the presentations for this year's event. Talks will be delivered by certified individuals using science-based knowledge and materials. The pH Soil Testing team will be on hand, as well as the "Let's Talk Plants" crew. If you would like to get involved, please contact Sandi Hartley. And watch your emails and social media for more details you can share with your friends and family - we always appreciate help getting the word out. 😊



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.

Check out the 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.
[Link to Mobile Clackamas County Chatter](#)

