



Clackamas County Chapter Chatter

AUTUMN
OCTOBER 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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In Our Community

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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

Mobile View

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

Hello everyone - summer has ended and now it's time to welcome the quieter seasons of Fall & Winter. This month we are talking about our annual Fall into Gardening event, new leadership for our chapter, a review of our Thompson Grants Project, and a new address for the extension office. *Look for our next publication - the End of Year edition, in December.*

Your Chatter editors: *Sharon Andrews & Laura Eyer*

Fall into Gardening Saturday, October 10 from 9am to noon.



You are invited to a morning of fall gardening classes on Saturday, October 10, 9:00 am to noon, at the Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie.

Stop by to learn about composting, tips for fall gardening, and climate change in our gardens. Be sure to share our event with family and friends:

<https://cmastergardeners.org/fall-into-gardening/>

Presentations begin at 9 a.m. but doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for early birds who wish to view educational displays or visit with OSU Master Gardeners at the "Let's Talk Plants" table.

- **9:00 - Unlock Autumn's Black Gold - Your Ultimate Fall Composting Guide :** Don't let your fall leaves go to waste; turn autumn's abundance into nutrient-rich soil for a thriving spring garden.
- **10:00 - Putting Your Garden to Bed:** It's the end of the garden season but there is a lot you can do now to benefit your garden through the winter & into the next growing season. Let's enjoy this slower, cooler season outside.
- **11:00 - Ruggedize Your Garden:** Discover practical ideas to help your garden withstand the impact of extreme weather events, adapt to climate change & thrive.

Let's Talk Plants! OSU Master Gardener volunteers will be available for one-on-one advice for your garden. Please bring samples or photos that illustrate your problem.

Experts also offer inspiration with informative displays, and don't forget your soil sample for a FREE pH soil test. Fall is a great time to test your soil and plan for spring. We can test up to four samples per client. Instructions for collecting a soil sample: <http://www.cmastergardeners.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/testing-soil-ph.pdf>

Chapter Housekeeping: Updating our Bylaws & New Rolls on the Executive Board

Our Executive Board has been hard at work this year making much needed updates to our Chapter Bylaws. The newly revised edition will be voted on at the November meeting. You may review that document using this link: [draft/Chapter Bylaws v2026](#) Please contact Priscilla Robinson with any thoughts you may have.

In November we will be voting for a new slate of officers. Earlier this year the president was tasked with filling the vacant Vice President position. **Colleen Rockwell, class of 2019**, has generously agreed to serve the remainder of the year, and will be on the ballot for 2027. Colleen was recently honored as the 2025 Milwaukie Volunteer of the Year. She helped with the creation of the Downtown Milwaukie Pollinator Pathway and serves on the city's Parks & Recreation Board. She volunteers with the Rotary Club of Milwaukie as co-treasurer and Environmental Chair and serves on the Clackamas Water Environment Services Advisory Committee. Thank you for all your volunteering efforts, Colleen! We look forward to working with you in the coming year.



Your Vote Counts

Notable updates to our chapter leadership are the addition of two new board positions: **Past President & Member-at-Large**. Priscilla Robinson, our current president, will continue her service to the chapter as Past President, and Tina Mori, class of 2024, will join the board as our first Member-at-Large. In her roll she will represent the interests of the general membership as a voting member of the board and will

become the assistant OMGA representative in two years. She has been involved with Seed to Supper and is a regular volunteer at the Pioneer Garden, Native Plant Garden at Hopkins Demonstration Forest as well as volunteering at the Spring Garden Fair.

Thank you both for your service to our chapter.

Gray and Norrene Thompson Community Grants Project Update

Last month the Gray and Norrene Thompson Community Grant Committee approved its second application for 2026. Cheryl Borden, with application assistance from Sherry Sheng, submitted a request for \$750 to purchase plants for completion of the final expansion of the **Pollinator Garden at Mary S. Young State Park**. The garden is located on the west side of the Willamette, just south of the Maryknoll / Mary's Wood complex in West Linn.

The garden was started by Sherry in 2020 with an area of about 5000 square feet. It has been managed and expanded since then by Cheryl. It gets a lot of attention as it is located adjacent to the parking for the athletic fields (and near the off-leash dog park), nicely delineated by a split-rail fence.

In addition to purchasing plants, the grant will also be used to purchase trial samples of plant ID signage which Cheryl hopes will hold up better to the environment.

This grant is only our second grant for 2026. The first was also for \$750. The funds went to rebuild the raised beds and associated micro-sprinklers at **Embrace Compassion**, a small urban farm outside Sherwood that supports children that are undergoing cancer treatment and their families by giving them opportunities to garden at the farm.



A reminder that the Gray and Norrene Thompson Community Grants are intended to empower Clackamas County Master Gardeners to have a positive impact in their community by providing funding for projects that "further the use of plants for food, as tools for education, as benefits to the environment, and as a means to beautify the community". If you have a project that would benefit from a grant, feel free to contact chairperson Justin Dune via the contact information in the chapter handbook.

Your 2027 Chapter Dues is Due!

Your Executive Board has voted for a small increase to help cover increasing costs - chapter dues will now be \$15.00 per year if you choose to pick up your Directory and \$18.00 if we mail it to your home. Your membership fee helps us to fund CCMGA projects, pays for a chapter donation to the Oregon Master Gardener Association, and for the printing of the directory.



The Directory will be available in early 2027. It includes information about our members including name, phone and address, chapter information including committees, the

chapter calendar, and other important chapter information. Directories will be available to pick up in at chapter meetings and other events such as Spring Garden Fair.

You can pay your dues by check, cash, and via PayPal on the chapter website.

- Cash or check (made out to CCMG) at a Chapter meeting in Nov, Dec, or Jan. (There is a small discount for paying cash).
- Via PayPal the cost is \$15.79 if you choose to pick up your copy, and \$18.85 if you prefer to have it mailed to you. <https://cmastergardeners.org/membership-renewal/>
- You may also mail your check to Frank Wille at the address in your directory.



• • • • In Other *News* • • • •

It's official! Our OSU Extension Clackamas County office has moved! You can now find us at 1021 Courthouse Road, just a short hop from our previous location. The Master Gardener Helpline office is up and running, with a bit more room to welcome clients!

Special note: this move wouldn't have gone nearly as smoothly without the generous time, effort, and energy of Master Gardeners Jane Collier and Cheryl Borden - we are sincerely grateful to both! Utmost thanks, Jane and Cheryl!

The move only included our main office building, not the Annex, so any scheduled CCMGA Board or committee meetings will continue to be held at the Annex.

Our new mailing address is: 1021 Courthouse Road, Oregon City, OR 97045



Quest for 50 Tons of Produce Donations. Previously we invited everyone to join us in our donation efforts. We thought you would like an update on the numbers so far this year. Grow an Extra Row has harvested and donated 4312 pounds as of September 29, and delivered an additional 2236 donated by chapter members, and the Pioneer Garden. That's a total of 6548 pounds of food for the hungry, or 3.27 tons. That's about 900 pounds more than last year, and the season isn't quite over yet. Volunteers will be in the garden until the middle of October. You can drop off your donations for the last time on October 13 Please bring them to Grow an Extra Row by 9:40 am on their Tuesday workday. [Click for more info about Grow an Extra Row.](#)

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](#)



President: Priscilla Robinson • **Vice President:** Colleen Rockwell • **Secretary:** Carol Holdt • **Treasurer:** Seamus Ramirez
Assist. Treasurer: Rhonda Frick-Wright • **Advisors:** Amelia Wilbur, Jane Collier • **Newsletter:** Laura Eyer, Sharon Andrews
