

Clackamas County Chatter September 2023

Greetings Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Volunteers,

Good news - your CCMGA newsletter will be returning in October! In the meantime, here is a short year in review as submitted to the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in our quarterly report.

Clackamas County Master Gardeners have been able to return to many of the traditional events and activities that have been the mark of our educational services and community outreach in the past. We have modified and adjusted as needed with a strong focus on the wellbeing of our members and those we serve.

Feted as outstanding members this year, Kathy Krentz received the “Chapter Master Gardener™ of the Year” and Cheryl Bordon was noted with “Chapter Behind the Scenes” award. Honored state-wide for outstanding achievement, and the 10-Minute University™ "Let's Grow Together!" webinars received the OMGA” Search for Excellence Award”. Well-earned recognition.

Our chapter meetings were resumed in person with a zoom component as well. Chapter members returned to serving on the Help Line, Speakers Guild, End of the Oregon Trail, and Hopkins Demonstration Forest. In addition to these, we provided volunteers for four major programs that serve the community and beyond with gardening support and resource sharing. These four areas of service are now reflected in our new chapter logo created by Sharon Andrews. A summary of these includes:

1. Grow an Extra Row Giving and Learning Garden, or “GAER” is celebrating 19 years as a project with the Clackamas County chapter. We rent 9 garden plots and from April to mid October raising a wide variety of vegetables. We have 32 garden beds that are each 25’ long. All the produce is donated to local food pantries.

So far this year we have donated 2318 pounds. Some of the poundages from spring crops were 249#’s of red and green cabbage, 148# of peas, 88# of broccoli, and 124# lettuce. Summer crops we are currently harvesting are 88# of onions, 209# of summer squash, 463# of tomatoes, 44# off 6 tomatillo plants.

Our mission is to “Teach, Learn, and Give” and so far this year we have had 44 volunteers give over 1000 hours of their time to this project.

2. Hopkins Demonstration Forest with MG Native Plant Sale

This sale is about education and service and the net results of sales goes to improvements and ongoing projects at the Native Plant Garden at Hopkin's Demonstration Forest maintained by Master Gardeners. This year we can use \$603.00 towards the purchase new plants and signage.

Nine plants were donated for landscape improvements around the Molalla Log House restoration project. Chapter members were there to sell plants and educate people about the use of native plants in their landscapes. Over 300 questions were answered with reference material provided by Native Plants for Willamette Valley yards booklet.

3. 10-Minute University™

The instructing team delivered 19 weekly webinars, from January through May to 5,200 live audiences. Recordings were posted to YouTube and have received more than 12,000 views. In addition, the team offered 8 hands-on workshops, beginning in March, to 117 gardeners. Topics ranged from Summer Pruning an Apple Tree to Making Soil Blocks. 10-Minute University classes were part of the Spring Garden Fair, serving 288 clients.

These webinars began in 2021, in response to COVID, and continued through 2022 and 2023. Total participation from live audience and video views have exceeded 51,000. While the majority of users live in Oregon and Washington, the average webinar attendance represents 6 countries and 24 US states. We are continuing to plan new webinars and topics for 2024.

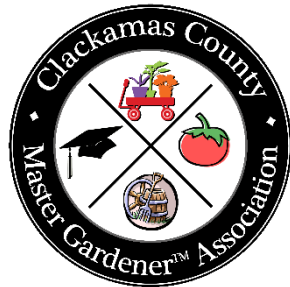
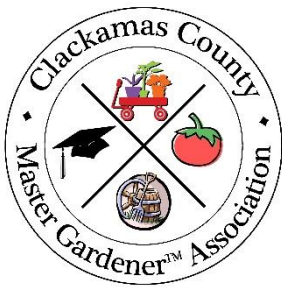
4. Spring Garden Fair continues to be a major focus for our chapter. Over 120 vendors provided the public attending (nearly 9,000 attended for the two day event) with a huge variety of garden plants and tools available. Master Gardeners hosted several booths with the opportunity for soil testing, classes from 10 Minute University instructors, new plant introductions, "Ask a Master Gardener", and a raffle to boot. Over 300 volunteers serve during this event, with over 2,000 hours served. Both chapter members as well as some volunteers from the community make this a successful annual event.

We took a break from the usual chapter meeting during summer and enjoyed a "Progressive Tour" of four nurseries in the Canby area followed by a picnic lunch with time to chat and share. We look forward to another time to gather and connect socially with our End of Summer Picnic on September 11th.

As we resume our traditional events, we will host "**Fall into Gardening**" **October 7th**. An event held for public education, there's soil testing, classes, displays and "Ask a Master Gardener" table.

A New Logo to Represent our Chapter.

In the spring the Executive board voted on a new logo for our chapter to be used in written publicity and articles, and on internet and social media platforms. The final result is a compass design depicting four of our chapter sponsored activities: The wagon from the Spring Garden, the red tomato from Grow an Extra Row, the rustic barrel from End of the Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden and the mortarboard from 10-Minute University™. Look for it on our official publications including the CCMGA webpage: www.cmastergardeners.org, the Chapter Handbook and Directory, our returning newsletter, the chapter emails in your inbox, and much more! You may see it in any of these approved variations:



Our chapter meetings will resume on October 9. We look forward to excellent program speakers, book sales, seed sharing, and time to continue to learn and grow. We hope to see you all soon!

Amelia Wilbur, Chapter President

President: Amelia Wilbur • Vice President: Priscilla Robinson • Secretary: Laura Oldenkamp
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