



# Clackamas County Chatter February 2024

**Chapter Meeting – Monday, February 12 at 7 p.m. Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr. Milwaukie • Meet & Greet at 6:30: Refreshments will be served! • Program is at 7:00**



**We Study Gardens: An update from the OSU Garden ecology Lab.\* Dr. Gail Langellotto**  
The OSU Garden Ecology Lab was founded in 2016, to develop research-based recommendations that are suitable and scalable to home and community gardens. In this talk, Dr. Langellotto will provide an overview of work going on in the laboratory, with a focus on two studies in various stages of progress: 1) how the cultivation of native plants, to produce native cultivars, affects pollinator visitation, and 2) working towards an integrated approach of building-integrated agriculture.

Gail Langellotto is a Professor of Horticulture at Oregon State University, and the principle investigator of the Garden Ecology Lab. In addition, she coordinates OSU's Urban Agriculture Certificate Program, leads a multi-state effort to grow support for native plant nursery growers (which is called 'Native Plant Connection'), and co-leads the College of Agricultural Sciences and leads the Department of Horticulture diversity, equity, inclusion, and access committees. Previously, she coordinated the statewide Master Gardener Program from 2007-2023, and draws direct inspiration for research projects from conversations with Master Gardener volunteers.

<https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab/>

*(Master Gardener Volunteers: this talk is approved for one hour continuing education credit, and Zoom may be available for this meeting. Look for the notice in your email)*



## Get Essential Gardening Tips at Garden Discovery Day!

The Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association invites Master Gardeners to a morning of stimulating gardening classes and demonstrations at their Garden Discovery Day event, Saturday, March 9th, 8:30 am to noon, at the Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie. For full event schedule, visit [www.cmastergardeners.org](http://www.cmastergardeners.org)

This free event is packed with essential gardening tips to help you jump start the 2024 gardening season. Join in to glean some great garden inspiration and guidance with informative presentations, demonstrations, free soil pH testing and educational displays.

OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners are volunteer educators, neighbors, and on-the-ground researchers who serve their community with solid training in science-based, sustainable gardening and a love of lifelong learning. Each Garden Discovery Day class offers gardening know-how that is proven and practical. Participants can take home a handout which summarizes key points of the topic.

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

## Event Schedule

**9:00 am “Spring and Summer Containers”** Spring and Summer are a great time to experiment with texture and color in your container gardens. Think of grasses and conifers for texture. Try plants with great foliage color. And it is a terrific time to go crazy with flowering annuals.

Learn how to apply the design formula of ‘thriller, filler, spiller’ in a container and see the numerous candidates that may play each role. It also covers practical considerations such as pot selection and preparation, and container media, watering and fertilizing. A demonstration building a beautiful, planted container will be raffled off to a lucky class attendee at the end of the class!

**10:00 am “Growing Your Own Tomatoes” \*** This information packed presentation focuses on variety selection and seed starting, or choosing a plant to purchase and caring for it before the soil warms up. The focus continues with techniques for planting out in the garden or a container and ways to support your growing plant. Learn best cultural practices for correct watering, pruning fertilizing and disease management. You can grow America’s favorite vegetable with your best crop ever!!

**11:00 am “Composting with Garden Debris and with Worm Bins” \*** Mother Nature’s oldest form of recycling is composting. Composting is easy and cheap, and you will have a strong and healthy garden when you add compost. Compost is a dark crumbly mixture of decomposed organic matter. Anything that was once alive will naturally decompose. Use compost to provide nutrients, to reduce your need for fertilizer and to improve the quality of clay or sandy soil. It also can be used as a mulch to control weeds and save water. So, instead of tossing out your yard trimmings, compost them in your own backyard.

A worm bin can eliminate most of your food waste and at the same time provide soil amendments and fertilizer. And it is pretty easy! Wriggling and eating their way through everything from apples to zucchini, redworms are voracious recyclers that transform kitchen waste to humus-rich soil conditioner in just a few months. To make them work for you, you need only supply them with a home, furnished with bedding and food.

**Free Soil pH Testing** Bring a soil sample and learn about soil pH. Winter rain tends to wash out soil minerals and turns it acidic. Soil pH affects the availability of nutrients to plants and is especially important to success in growing blueberries, rhododendrons, azaleas, and vegetables. To get accurate readings of your soil, collect separate samples from lawns, vegetable gardens, rose gardens, and perennial beds. This free service will test up to four samples per client and give advice on whether amendments are needed. For step-by-step instructions click here: [Testing Soil pH](#)

**Let’s Talk Plants!** Throughout the morning, Master Gardener volunteers will be available offering one-on-one advice for all your gardening questions. . Bring plant specimens and/or photos that best illustrate your problem or question and put our ace diagnosticians to work.

### A Note from our President

A gardening poster reads “ Make no mistake, the weeds will win. Nature always bats last.

Perhaps there’s a corollary for January that says ” Make no mistake, the ice and wind will challenge you. Nature always bats last”

The recent weeks have been wild and challenging. Hope each of you and your loved ones have managed the storm and its aftermath and are now safe and well.

As I write this, I see primrose blossoms that survived it all, daffodils and grape hyacinths that optimistically continue their plan to be blooming in February and know that spring will be here soon. Now is a great time to curl up and enjoy browsing your seed catalogs and check out the many ways to get your educational hours all done before spring is here! There’s lots to learn from our 10 Minute University webinars each week. And watch for the announcements from Metro regarding continuing education. (You can now catch the recorded Fall Recertification Webinars.) And all the above count as continuing education credit.

( Note continues) Plan to attend the February chapter meeting. A special treat to have Dr. Gail Langellotto visit with us and update us with the latest on The Garden Ecology Lab. If you can offer a ride to someone near you who doesn't drive, do so. The availability to have the hybrid format is uncertain at this time. Watch for updates as the time nears.

My very best to each of you as we move forward with a great year for the Master Gardener programs.

*Amelia Wilbur* CCMGA President 2024

### Spotlight on Gray & Norrene Thompson Community Projects Grant



Gray Thompson was an OSU Extension Agent who helped start the OSU Master Gardener Program™ in Oregon. Both Norrene and Gray volunteered countless hours for the Master Gardener Program. In 1995, they were acknowledged as “An Honored Pair,” and in 2005, they were recognized as State Master Gardeners of the Year. The Clackamas County Master Gardener Association created this grant program to honor their passion for education and service to the community.

#### Purpose

To broaden Clackamas County Master Gardeners' community service by providing seed money for projects which further the use of plants as food, as tools for education, as benefits to the environment, and as a means to beautify the community.

#### Focus

For 2024, priority will be given to projects involving food production, reclaiming locations from invasive plants, improving garden resiliency in times of climate change and children's education. Priorities may change and guidelines will be reviewed and determined annually.

#### Eligibility

We accept applications from the Portland metro region. However, 85% of the funds will be reserved for projects located in Clackamas County through June 30, 2024. Funds must be used in the year the grant was awarded. The Community Project Committee awards grants several times a year.

If you have a project that qualifies for a grant, please submit your application to : Nancy Hopkins, [cmggrants@gmail.com](mailto:cmggrants@gmail.com)  
Questions? Contact Nancy Hopkins via email. You can find more information and the application here: [Gray & Norrene Thompson Community Projects Grant Page](#)

### Help Wanted – Chapter Historian

The chapter historian maintains documents and photos of historical significance to the chapter. The historian is responsible to work with the chapter photographer webmaster and Executive Board along with other chapter committees in compiling an annual scrapbook/yearbook and make it available to the chapter digitally via the chapter webpage. For more details, please contact [Sharon Andrews](#) If you are interested in taking on this important role please contact [Priscilla Robinson](#).



## In Memoriam – Darlene Sanman

It is with a sad heart that we inform you that Master Gardener Darlene Sanman passed away on December 31st, 2023. Darlene was born in Portland and worked as secretary to the District Manager at the phone company central office, where she meant Rodger. They were married on January 26, 1963. They have three children, twins, Wayne and Wendy Sanman and daughter Jill Bender. Three grandchildren, Natalie & Eric Sanman, and Anna Bender. Darlene was surrounded by her family at the time of her passing.



Darlene and her husband Rodger joined the Clackamas County Master Gardeners in 2001. From the very beginning they became active in the program. For many years Darlene was one of the first people you would see when you entered the Spring Garden Fair. She always had a kind word and a smile on her face. When asked why she loved being a part of Hospitality she said she wanted to be a credit to our community. And she certainly was!

Rodger and Darlene became good friends with many of the Master Gardeners. They attended several "Mini Colleges" together with Herb and Niki Davis, and other MG friends. It was because of taking watercolor classes at mini college that Darlene became an avid artist with sketching, journaling, and watercolor painting. For years she was a regular at the Brush and Palette art studio in Jennings Lodge and enjoyed taking watercolor classes with friends. She loved art in the garden and looked forward to Master Gardener Open Garden events. Darlene was also on the Clackamas chapter display committee for Mini College. During those years, the chapter won first place three times.

For many years she was the Sunshine committee, sending get well cards to fellow Master Gardeners. Darlene knew that it was important to keep people close and to feel needed. That was her way of showing her love in a silent way.



Darlene was also the Smiling face at the Registration Table at Chapter Meetings and loved giving prizes away at the monthly chapter raffle. She greeted everyone with a smile and a kind word. At one very special meeting, John Rosetto brought holly and to the meeting. Darlene made sure everyone was able to take home some of each, but at the end of the night there was none left for her. John knew what a special lady Darlene was so the next day she found a beautiful bunch of Holly at her front door.



At one Spring Garden Fair, Darlene was passing out seed packets to children. A little girl named Sara Andrews was given a packet of Shasta Daisies. With the help of her mom, she grew them and planted them in her yard. That was 16 years ago and those very special seeds from Darlene still grow each year as a reminder of a very kind lady.



*Darlene was a gentle spirit and a ray of sunshine who will be greatly missed.*

Clackamas County Master Gardeners have donated to the Hoyt Arboretum in Darlene's name. If you wish to donate, here is the information: <https://www.hoytarboretum.org/donate/>

Darlene Sanman 3/4/1937 - 12/31/2023

Sympathy cards can be mailed to the family of Darlene  
Rodger Sanman 13160 SE 172nd Ave. Apt 118, Happy Valley, Oregon 97068





## 2024 looking ahead

### March 11 Chapter Meeting: Regenerating Urban Landscapes: Carole Hardy, educator & Master Gardener

Urbanization disrupts the function of ecosystems which threatens biodiversity and human health. As stewards of the land, we can increase the resilience of our urban areas by working to regenerate landscapes. As Master Gardeners, we are positioned to implement regenerative practices, teach communities how to participate in regenerative practices, and advocate for change in policies and practices at a local, state and national scales.

### February Webinars Presented by 10-Minute University™: All classes are from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

- **February 7:** Garden Tools taught by Priscilla Robinson
- **February 8:** Growing Cane Berries taught by Jane Collier
- **February 14:** Soil Amendments taught by Amelia Wilbur
- **February 21:** Growing Tomatoes 1 taught by Amelia Wilbur
- **February 28:** Growing Early Vegetables taught by Jane Collier and Sherry Sheng



You can find more information/ links to register here: <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/10-minute-university/>

- **April 8 – Lecture Series:** Beyond Plants: What Else Your Garden Needs to Support Pollinators, *Matthew Shepard*
- **May 4 & 5 – Spring Garden Fair** Clackamas County Event Center, Canby Oregon
- **May 13 – Lecture Series:** The Worms Beneath our Feet—and Worm Bins, *Kris LaMar*
- **June 10 – Lecture Series:** Sustainable Turfgrass Management, *Alec Kowalksi*
- **July tba** - Annual chapter outing. Info TBA. Please save the date for the second weekend in July
- **September 12 \*\*Saturday\*\*** Chapter Picnic, Milwaukie Center
- **October 12 – Fall into Gardening** Milwaukie Center, Milwaukie Oregon
- **October 14 – Lecture Series:** Success with Planting Garlic, *Chip Bubl*
- **November 12 (Tuesday) – Lecture Series:** Characteristics and Natural History of Conifers in the Pine Family (Pinaceae), *Elizabeth Price*
- **December 9 – Lecture Series:** Native plants in the Home Garden, *Eric Butler*

### Chapter Housekeeping: Refreshment Signups for the coming meetings will be posted here

**February:** Nancy Cutler, Kathy Cardinal, Liz Sinclair    **March:** Debbie Busby

*Thank you for serving your chapter!*

President: Amelia Wilbur • Vice President: Priscilla Robinson • Secretary: Judy Fulton  
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