

Georgia Master Gardener Program

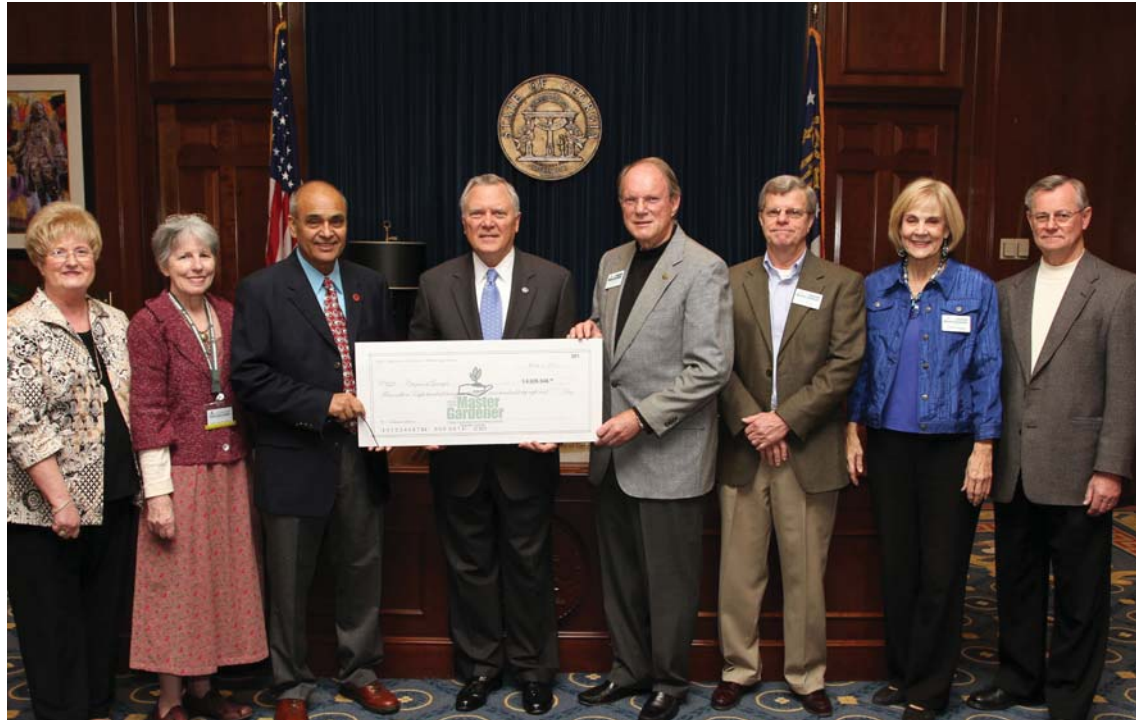
2010 ANNUAL REPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



Georgia Master Gardeners help backyard gardeners across the state grow. And the service they provide is literally worth a fortune. To celebrate the programs' contributions, the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension will celebrate Master Gardener Day in Georgia March 19.

"This time of year we present our annual report, and we represent the amount of the Master Gardener volunteers' service in dollars. It helps people comprehend the value of that service," said Marco Fonseca, the state Master Gardener coordinator.

Last year, Master Gardeners in Georgia worked 221,184 hours and travelled 945,375 miles, donating the equivalent of \$4.8 million through the volunteer service.

The Master Gardener program idea sprouted in 1972 at Washington State University. Overwhelmed with requests for help with plant problems, WSU Extension horticulture agents began to use well-trained volunteers to help them answer backyard gardeners' questions. They called these volunteers Master Gardeners from the German word *Gartenmeister*, which means "having a top proficiency level in horticulture." The program has grown worldwide.

UGA Extension brought the program to Atlanta in 1979. More than 3,000 Volunteers in 69 counties now participate in the program. Though many volunteers help clients in the UGA Extension offices, the Master Gardeners conduct projects outside the office, too.

Projects include teaching classes on home vegetable gardening, plant clinics, establishing demonstration gardens and water conservation methods. They teach at schools, parks, camps, hospitals, prisons, nursing homes and community gardens, all voluntarily to help Georgia gardeners of all ages be successful, Fonseca said.

Reaching Out



Connecting Communities

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES 2010

Georgia Master Gardener Program Report

498 New Master Gardeners (completed training this year)

2619 Number of Veteran Master Gardeners returning.

1. Total # of volunteer hours this year 221,184 x (*19.75 per hour) = \$ 4,368,376.
2. Total # of in person contacts 458,573.
3. Total # of telephone contacts 52,287.
4. Total # of miles traveled 945,3745 x (**.50 per mile) = \$472,687

5. Master Gardeners participated in the following volunteer activities:

EDUCATIONAL

5,481	Children's Programs (Project code #1)
2,717	Civic or Garden Club Presentations (Project code #2)
20,182	Community or Demonstration Gardens (Project code #3)
658	Conducted or Judged Flower Shows (Project code #4)
1,178	Exhibits (Project code #5)
8,907	Extension Office (Project code #6)
477	Habitat for Humanity (Project code #7)
3,505	Home Garden Visits (Project code #8)
1,121	Newsletters (Project code #9)
628	Newspaper or Magazine Articles (Project code #10)
2,954	Plant Clinics or Fairs (Project code #11)
1,199	Research or Writing (Project code #12)
891	Teaching Adult Classes (Project code #13)
143	TV & Radio Programs (Project code #14)

ADMINISTRATIVE

1,171	Advisory Committees (Project code #15)
905	GMGA Committees (Project code #16)
11,916	Local MG Program Administration (Project code #17)
6,565	Other (describe in Special Project Reports)(Project code #18)

Figures 1-4 adjusted to reflect 5% under reporting

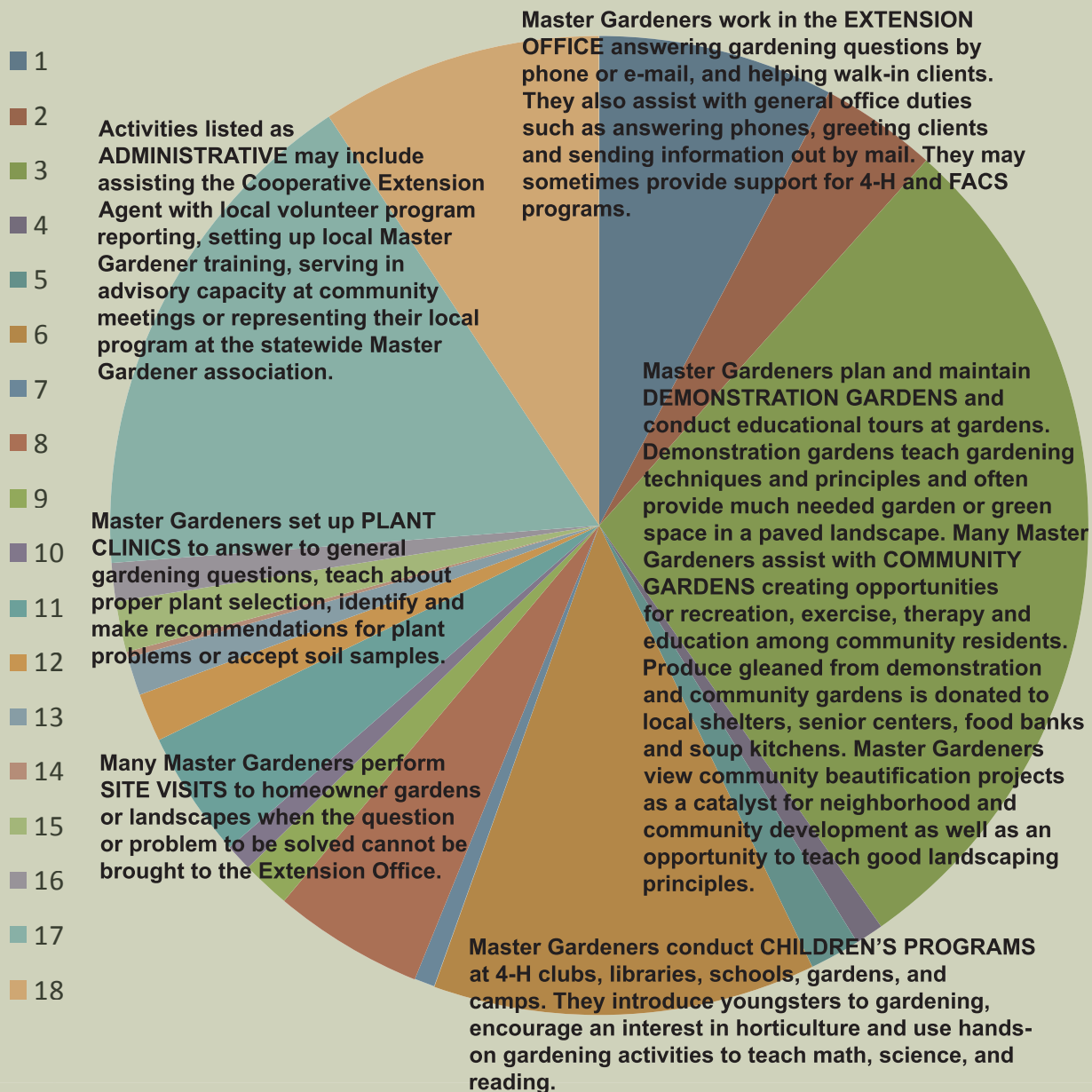
Data collected as of February 16, 2011. Includes late reports and error corrections.

*The wage rate of \$19.75 per hour was used. The value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly earnings of all production and non supervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls for state of Georgia (as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) increased by 12 percent to estimate for fringe benefits. This information was supplied by the Independent Sector (1200 18th St., NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20036; 202/223-8100), an organization that "serves as a national forum to encourage giving. On the web at: <http://www.independentsector.org>

**The mileage rate is based on \$0.50 per mile.

Estimated value of volunteer service further validated by May 2008 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates BLS May 2008 Farm and Home Management Advisors: \$19.97 median hourly wages.

A Brief Explanation of Master Gardener Projects



Georgia Master Gardener

What is the Georgia Master Gardener Program?

As the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension's largest volunteer program, Georgia Master Gardener connects gardeners with their communities. Since 1979, Extension agents have trained volunteers to help fulfill UGA Cooperative Extension's mission of helping Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.

Who are the Master Gardeners?

Representing a variety of personalities, professions and talents, Georgia Master Gardeners are trained volunteers with unique skills and abilities who share a passion for gardening. Young and old, these dedicated men and women are motivated by a desire to serve their communities, and are eager to reach out share their experiences and knowledge with each other and their neighbors.

What do Master Gardeners do?

Georgia Master Gardeners enthusiastically extend the reach of Cooperative Extension by providing practical advice and information about gardening. Each certified Master Gardener provides at least 25 hours of volunteer service annually to their local Cooperative Extension office or affiliated partners like the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. Master Gardeners are educators rather than a source of physical labor. Still, many Master Gardeners love to dig in the dirt and use a variety of methods to teach about good gardening practices including hands-on demonstrations and maintaining educational display gardens as well as encouraging community gardening efforts.

What is Expected of Master Gardeners?

After successfully completing the classroom portion, which involves regular attendance and passing a final exam, participants volunteer 50 hours of service to the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension within the first year. Upon completion, they become Georgia Master Gardeners, receiving a certificate and official name badge. To remain active, Georgia Master Gardeners are expected to volunteer a minimum of 25 hours of service each year thereafter.

How can I become a Georgia Master Gardener?

If you have the time and commitment to learn and want to put your knowledge and skills to work through volunteer service, apply for admission through your local participating UGA Cooperative Extension office.

1-800-ASK-UGA1
www.ugaextension.com

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