

GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Learn

Serve

Grow



Spotlight: Health Benefits of Gardening

Wrens Nest Center for Wellbeing (<http://wrensnestcenter.com/>) is nestled in the North Georgia mountains and provides a sanctuary for those seeking peace in beautiful gardens or through yoga programs, and other services. Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) have helped to make the Center more valuable to the public by planning, installing, and maintaining plants for The Healing Advocate Garden.

The Healing Advocate is an outdoor garden sculpture dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin "Marty" Michaels whose career as a pediatrician was devoted to helping aid the injured and heal the sick. Filled with medicinal plants and herbs, The Healing Advocate Garden is intended to display vegetation with healing qualities. However, the garden is most unique in its location, planted in the Michaels' family's lime-green 1990 Volvo. The car was converted to a garden space in 2013 when, Cindy Michaels, the owner of Wrens Nest and a former MGEV, commissioned artist and mechanic David Mumford. The development of this unique space provides the public with a tranquil, historical, and educational garden of healing, medicinal plants to visit. This garden has truly served this purpose as it is open to the public for free during daylight hours and has been used by various garden clubs, herb societies, school groups, and individuals for meetings and other events.

MGEVs are proud that this healing sculpture garden has met the goals of educational value, sustainability, and attractiveness. The presence of The Healing Advocate has given the garden a new visual and educational focus and energy. It has been the catalyst for additional art installations, as well as the development of an herbal display garden that is being developed this spring.

Wrens Nest and Healing Advocate Gardens
Dalton, GA
Served by MGEVs from Whitfield County



2015 Project Contributions:

Volunteer Hours: 145

Tours :15+

Planning Meetings: 10+

Special thanks to MGEVs working in The Healing Advocate garden!



The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia's citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.