



Richmond Home & Garden Show

served by Richmond County Extension and MGEVs

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Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

The Augusta Home & Garden Show is an annual event and took place from February 24-26 in 2017. Thirty-five Augusta Area Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) of Columbia and Richmond Counties participated in this event by staffing an attractive display booth, answering visitor's questions, and providing UGA publications and resources connecting visitors with the Master Gardener Program and local Extension programming.

In 2017, the Master Gardener Booth theme was Attracting Butterflies. MGEVs set up their booth with native plants, like azaleas, provided by a local nursery, a display board identifying butterfly species and pollinator plants, publications and handouts covering topics like "Top 10 Ways to Create a Haven for Butterflies." MGEV Sharyn Altman, a local butterfly enthusiast, helped to prepare these materials.



296
volunteer service
hours in 2017

35
MGEVs
contributed to
this project

Booth visitors were also educated on the importance of soil tests with a notebook of soil analysis reports prepared by Master Gardener Suzanne Thomas, and demonstrations were done by Master Gardener Jerry Hardman and others on how to properly take a soil sample. As a result, 500 soil sample bags and soil testing brochures were distributed. Master Gardeners staffing the booth also addressed common questions like insect and pest identification, herbicide application, and fertilizer usage. Visitors' interest was piqued by the display complete with a potting bench and live plants, and they were inquisitive about appropriate pollinator plants to support the life cycle of butterflies.

Horticulture education for local homeowners went beyond the Master Gardener booth and flowed into the Garden Stage, where "celebrities" presented seminars during the event. Master Gardener Debbie Myers gave a seminar on native plants that thrive in the Augusta area and Master Gardener Rhee Fincher shared about the Augusta Area Master Gardener program and MGEV projects. In addition, Richmond County Extension agent and local MGEV program coordinator, Campbell Vaughn, presented on the five things needed to start a landscape plan.

MGEV Trainees also staffed the booth, working with at least two seasoned Master Gardeners. It was an excellent opportunity for trainees to get volunteer experience alongside tenured Master Gardeners, and new friendships were forged in the process. Trainees benefitted from the opportunity to work with seasoned MGEVs as they became comfortable interacting with the public, answering homeowner questions, and sharing about the mission of the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer program.



The Augusta Home & Garden Show also benefited from Master Gardener involvement in 2018 with a Landscape Design theme booth. Master Gardeners enjoy contributing to this event, educating homeowners, and informing others about opportunities offered by the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer program and local Extension offices.



Special thanks to MGEV Rose Marie Hardman for her efforts in coordinating Master Gardener involvement in the Home & Garden Show.

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.

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