

## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR

Thank you to all 2,269 Master Gardener volunteers who generously gave over 128,000 valuable hours of themselves in 2010 to the people in your communities around the state. This annual report "Message from the State Director" is written in special appreciation of the Master Gardeners who have volunteered on our State Advisory Board.



*Current State Advisory Board members and staff who participated in the July 2011 board meeting.*

The first Master Gardener State Advisory Board met in October 1990. Today, twelve Master Gardener volunteers serve on the Board, each serving for a three-year term. Any active Master Gardener may volunteer for one of the twelve Board positions (6 metro, 3 north of I-94, and 3 south). An extension educator, a county Master Gardener program coordinator, a regional director and an Arboretum liaison also serve on the Board.

The Board convenes quarterly to share their perspectives with the state staff – director, manager and assistant. Board members learn about and discuss ideas around education, market communications, finance, volunteer management and more. These volunteers give of their time a little

differently than other Master Gardeners. They blend their local perspective with needs statewide, resulting in a very helpful "big-picture" vision. They are often the first Master Gardener volunteers to hear of new developments at the state office and within Extension. They discuss topics on a statewide level and look for synergies in programs across county lines. Board members offer the state staff ideas, suggestions, and feedback on our plans and activities, and they bring information and unique insight into the statewide program back to the counties.

On behalf of the state staff and Extension, my sincere thanks to all Master Gardeners who have served on the State Advisory Board and to those of you currently serving. You give your time and energy to help strengthen our Program statewide for all Master Gardeners and for the greater community of University of Minnesota Extension.

Julie Weisenhorn  
State Director

*The mission of the  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener program is to support  
Extension by providing volunteers trained  
in horticulture to educate the public with  
research based information on the best  
practices in consumer horticulture and  
environmental stewardship.*

## Did You Know ...

University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener volunteers extend the capacity of Extension's small consumer horticulture team to deliver University-based horticulture education to residents across Minnesota. Master Gardeners answer hundreds of consumer questions each year. They do so via phone answering lines, information booths at locations like county fairs and farmers markets, and via eXtension's online email answering system. Several counties host scheduled plant diagnostic clinics where Master Gardeners help consumers in person to solve plant growth, insect and disease problems.

Along with traditional horticulture education projects, Master Gardener volunteers are increasing their focus on three Master Gardener statewide priorities. These areas have been identified as priorities that achieve significant public benefit in addition to assisting individuals.

Here's a look at the breadth of this work in 2010:

### YOUTH FOCUS

Master Gardeners in **24 counties** work together with schools to excite youth about plants and plant sciences. Using the Junior Master Gardener™ (JMG) curriculum and other resources, Master Gardeners teach in classrooms, at conservation days, and in school gardens. In several counties, Master Gardeners have been instrumental in helping schools create ongoing school gardens and in incorporating JMG into the school's curriculum.

Master Gardeners in **19 counties** engage youth in plant sciences and gardening through out-of-school programs. From a summer youth garden program on the U of M St. Paul Campus to a community garden plot in western Minnesota, Master Gardeners are teaching youth about the science and 'art' of growing their own food. Research shows if youth grow it, they are more likely to eat it.

Master Gardeners in **9 counties** work with youth (and some adults) through community collaborative initiatives supported by **Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP)** grants. The state's SHIP initiative is a grant program created to improve

health through increased physical activity and healthy eating.

### FOOD ACCESS

Master Gardeners in **17 counties** work with community gardens that support and provide a resource for individuals to grow their own food. The interest in growing vegetables and fruits locally has been sparked by economics, concerns about food safety and efforts to promote healthier eating. Some Master Gardeners have organized and implemented community gardens; others provide education and consultation to gardeners.

Master Gardeners in **5 counties** conducted demonstration food gardens replicating the Minnesota Arboretum's, "Veggies by the Yard" project. Much of the produce from these gardens was donated to local food shelves.

Master Gardeners in **5 counties** report conducting other various food access projects, like starting a farmers markets and organizing a "Grow a Row for Hunger" program.



## ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

Master Gardeners in **21 counties** do education about raingardens, specially designed gardens that retain runoff and reduce pollutant entry into waterways. Their work ranges from providing direct consulting with homeowners to teaching classes to maintaining demonstration teaching raingardens. They often work in partnership with municipalities and conservation or watershed districts.

Master Gardeners in **10 counties** provide classes and consulting on shoreline restoration, providing education on creating buffer zones to reduce runoff directly into lakes and rivers. Often this work is done with lake associations.

Master Gardeners in **17 counties** teach about and demonstrate composting techniques and best practices for reducing and reusing yard waste.

Master Gardeners in **14 counties** educate the public and build awareness about invasive species. For years Master Gardeners have led efforts to reduce and remove buckthorn and noxious weeds. In 2010 the priority focused on providing education and awareness about the Emerald Ash Borer.

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## And Did You Know ...

- Horticulture days, with names like “Let’s Get Growing,” “Burst into Spring,” and “Spring Wake-Up,” have become an increasing popular way for Master Gardeners to pack a lot of horticulture education for the public into one event. A keynote speaker, a series of educational workshops, garden-related vendor booths and silent auctions are typical in the format of these day-long events. In 2010, **20 counties** organized and hosted horticulture days. In total over **2840 people participated** in these events. That is in addition to the hundreds of Master Gardener volunteers who organized and facilitated the day-long activities.



- Master Gardeners in **4 counties team up with Habitat for Humanity**. They help the new home owners plan appropriate landscape plantings, work with the home owner to properly install the plantings, then teach them how to care for and maintain the landscape to add to the value of their new home. In 2010, **26 families** received Master Gardener assistance.

- Master Gardeners in **16 counties conduct projects that provide therapeutic horticulture** activities. A long time program in Ramsey County reaches hundreds of youth at Children’s Hospital in St. Paul. Several programs use gardening to teach skills to youth and adult residents in corrections facilities. Other counties have used raised beds and adapted gardening practices to engage residents of senior care and group home facilities in productive and therapeutic projects.



- Master Gardeners use a variety of media to educate. In addition to at least one Master Gardener generated educational blog and one county program that produces a regular online newsletter, most counties use traditional media outlets to reach citizens with University-based information and education about horticulture and the environment. In 2010, Master Gardener volunteers produced:
  - **506 newspaper articles**
  - **207 taped or live radio show**
  - **106 cable TV shows**

# County Highlight Reports

The breadth and depth of Master Gardener volunteer work across Minnesota is reflected in the highlight reports submitted by 47 local Master Gardener Programs for 2010. These brief descriptions give a snapshot of the horticulture education being delivered by Extension thanks to our great Master Gardener volunteers.

## Aitkin County

Aitkin County Master Gardeners hosted a “Reducing Runoff on Residential and Lake Lots” program with assistance and a grant from Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation Service. The six-module program promoting healthy watershed practices was condensed for three shorter presentations. In all, 133 people participated in the combined educational effort.

## Anoka County

To learn about the real impact of programs in Anoka County, Master Gardeners conducted an electronic survey of people who participated in three major educational offerings. The E-survey results (45 percent return) showed participants changed practices and behaviors. As a result of Master Gardener programs, 20 percent reduced watering, 21 percent installed rain barrels, 24 percent reduced pesticide use, 22 percent reduced fertilizer use, 24 percent changed tree care practices, and 40 percent grew more vegetables than in previous years.

## Becker County

Half of Becker County’s 20 Master Gardeners participated in producing 26 five-minute educational segments for a local cable TV series. The segments featured a wide range of horticulture topics and were written and produced by Master Gardeners. The segments are also hosted on You Tube.

## Benton County

Master Gardeners supported the community of Foley after 21 trees in a community park were vandalized. The trees had been planted by local school children over the past 30 years. Master Gardeners donated money for replacement trees, advised on tree selection and assisted in properly planting the trees. They will continue to support the community as more trees are selected and planted in 2011.

## Carlton County

All Carlton County 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to plant a tree seedling on deforested county land during the Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting Event. Master Gardeners collaborate with several organizations and businesses to host the event. They teach about the importance of forests and demonstrate how to plant the seedlings.

## Carver/Scott Counties

Master Gardeners teach horticulture to 13-17 year old youth residents in the Juvenile Alternative Facility (JAF) Program in Scott County. The hands-on curriculum varies by season. It’s houseplants in the winter, food gardening in spring and summer, and plant history and harvesting in the fall. Many of the youth have troubled backgrounds and this is often their first experience with gardening. Staff and Master Gardeners have witnessed attitude changes and youth engaging in a whole new world of learning. Some of the JAF youth have taken what they learn back to their families and have become promoters of good environmental stewardship beyond the classroom.



Anoka Master Gardeners keep the attention of citizens who come to learn at Tuesday Night in the Garden sessions.



Master Gardeners in Carlton County teach youth how to plant a tree while together they reforest the county landscape.

*Staff and Master Gardeners have witnessed attitude changes and youth engaging in a whole new world of learning.*

Carver/Scott Master Gardener JAF program

### **Chippewa County**

Chippewa County hosted its first horticulture day titled "Spring...Can You Dig It?" which featured workshop sessions on vegetable gardening, rain gardens, birding and new plant introductions. With very positive evaluations from the 57 attendees the event will continue in 2011. Master Gardeners believe the response indicates a need for sound, research based information.

### **Clay County**

Master Gardeners of Clay County hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Horticulture Day in partnership with Moorhead Community Education. The popular event grew in attendance to 125 and featured a nationally recognized speaker, Melinda Myers, in addition to a series of workshops. A sustainability theme was seen throughout the event including the use of biodegradable dinnerware and reducing paper handouts for sessions. Master Gardeners from North Dakota joined Clay County Master Gardeners in putting on the event

### **Clearwater County**

Although a small program with only six Master Gardeners, Clearwater County organized and hosted their annual 'Spring Wake-Up' Conference that drew nearly 100 participants. The program featured several classes including a session on high tunnel growing techniques by Extension Educator, Terry Nennich and a presentation on medicinal herbs for northern Minnesota.



*The end of the season for the 'Dig It' fall garden program at the Cook County Community Center brings smiles and satisfaction.*

### **Cook County**

A \$10,000 grant for a small solar greenhouse allowed Cook County Master Gardeners to expand the youth gardening program at a school in Grand Marais. The greenhouse is used to produce food for the school and provides space for after-school youth gardening program. Lesson plans for classroom activities are aligned with state education standards. Youth gardening classes are offered spring, summer and fall.

### **Cottonwood/Jackson Counties**

These two county programs integrated into one Master Gardener program unit. Master Gardener volunteers used presentations developed by Extension Educators to conduct programs in three communities on diseases of tomatoes and on emerald ash borer.

### **Crow Wing County**

Partnering with Brainerd Community Education, Crow Wing County Master Gardeners had three busy summer months conducting weekly classes to teach youth about gardening. The youth gardening program was offered in conjunction with a new youth garden created by the school district with a grant from the State Health Improvement Program (SHIP).

### **Dakota County**

University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners in Dakota County reached over 1000 elementary students through several school and community programs. A team of Master Gardeners worked with 628 K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students at a school in Lakeville. They spoke to every classroom on topics ranging from seeds, to butterflies, hummingbirds, bird facts and trees. Another team of Master Gardeners conducted the second annual Adaptive Nature Night for special needs children and their parents at the school. In Inver Grove Heights a team of Master Gardeners coordinated an after-school garden club for K-5<sup>th</sup> graders. Youth learned about seeding, insects, weed identification, soils, and

Minnesota veggies. The youth designed and planted vegetable gardens in a local community garden. The project was part of a grant-funded Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) outreach effort and reached over 400 youth.

### **Dodge County**

For a second year, Master Gardeners played a big role in helping University of Minnesota Extension, Dodge County promote and support community gardens and gardeners at three sites in the county. In total, 60 garden plots were used by 37 family groups, half of whom were non-white or low-income. A monthly newsletter of vegetable growing tips was produced in English and Spanish. On site visits provided an opportunity for gardeners to ask questions and for Master Gardeners to diagnose problems.

### **Douglas County**

Master Gardeners partnered with Alexandria District 206 Food Service and other Extension and school programs to conduct a significant youth gardening program, supported in large part by a State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant. A large raised bed school garden served as the classroom. Student in K-5 started seeds and planted the gardens. A summer youth program with 90 students maintained the gardens and participated in garden classes three times a week. Youth kept notebooks and entered produce at the county fair. The program will expand in 2011.

### **East Otter Tail County**

Master Gardeners planned and hosted the Northwest Minnesota Master Gardener Fall Blitz, an educational day for Master Gardeners in the region. A portion of the event focused on water quality and environment, particularly on landscaping that impacts lake water quality. A Soil and Water Conservation District staff member who has partnered with Master Gardeners on rain garden projects was the guest presenter. Other educational sessions at the event included designing landscapes for wildlife and extending the garden season in Zone 3.

### **Fillmore County**

Half of Fillmore County's Master Gardeners participated in the University's vegetable trails conducted through the Master Gardener program. The by-product of this project was of bounty of over 360 pounds of vegetables donated to the local food shelf.

### **Freeborn County**

Master Gardeners assist residents of a local nursing home in planning and caring for raised bed and container vegetable gardens. Residents also plant flowers and are encouraged to make an entry at the county fair.

### **Goodhue County**

A new community Garden in Cannon Falls prompted two Master Gardeners to develop a demonstration garden on the site to promote gardening questions, demonstrate new vegetables and provide gardening information. A weatherproof box for submitting questions was installed along with a rain gauge to record rainfall. In addition to answering questions and using the garden to teach about topics like watering and disease problems, most of the produce was donated to a local food shelf.



*A young Cannon Falls gardener finds great satisfaction in the harvest from the community garden.*



*New graduates of Hennepin County's Urban Gardener Program learn to grow their own food and an evaluation shows they share their knowledge and produce.*

### **Hennepin County**

The Urban Gardener Program expanded in 2010. The six session educational program now provides classroom and hands-on gardening training at Sabathani Community Center in south Minneapolis and at heritage Park Housing Complex in north Minneapolis. Master Gardeners worked with community members to design the program. While the curriculum is the same, how it is delivered varies with the community. A goal of the program is to teach people how to grow their own produce in neighborhoods where access to fresh produce is limited. In 2010, 55 community members participated, 34 graduated. Eighty-nine percent of participants said they would continue gardening; 63 percent said their shared produce with extended family and the community.

### **Houston County**

Master Gardeners collaborated with other community groups to host the "Secret Gardens of Houston County" tour. The event was a benefit for Bluff Country Family Resources. The tour included nine private gardens and the Houston Community Garden.



*A Hubbard County Master Gardener project is used to both teach and demonstrate good environmental practices.*

### **Hubbard County**

With an environmental improvement grant from ConAgra Foods, Master Gardeners conducted a shoreline rehabilitation project. They used the project to conduct classes on invasive grasses, buckthorn eradication and plant ID. Incorporating permeable pavers in the rehab design, they used the design to conduct a public class on runoff and erosion. Installation of native grasses, shrubs and flowers completed the project.

### **Isanti County**

For a second year, the community garden program conducted in partnership with the City of Cambridge and several other groups was highly successful. Four new garden sections and eight raised beds for individuals with special needs were added. A rainwater collection system was installed on a storage shed. Four garden workshops were conducted by Master Gardeners and educational materials were posted on the garden bulletin board. Having been key organizers of the original project, Master Gardeners are now working on plans to transfer management of the garden to a steering committee. Master Gardeners will continue to provide education and mentoring for gardeners.

### **Itasca County**

The theme of the 201 Spring Fling was "Living Off the Land." This horticulture education day featured 12 presentations, mostly taught by University of Minnesota Extension educators and Master Gardeners. Evaluations were returned by 100 of the 126 attendees. The responses indicated that not only did participants find it a valuable day, they appreciated written materials, the web links, and they planned to incorporate what they learned into gardening practices in the upcoming season.



*The new JMG group in Kanabec County not only grows great produce for the food shelf, but a new generation of gardeners.*

### **Kanabec County**

Master Gardeners started a Junior Master Garden (JMG) group with nine youth using three over-sized plots at the Mora Community Garden. Students worked up the soil, planted and cared for vegetables through the growing season. The produce was donated to a local food shelf. Weekly sessions also included activities from the JMG curriculum and all students earned a "Growing a Vegetable Garden" certificate from the JMG program. Parents were so enthused by the outcomes that they requested the class be repeated in 2011 and include a gardening class for adults.



*Lake County Master Gardeners guide and assist Minnesota Conservation Corps and 4-H members to plant a rain garden in Two Harbors.*

### **Kandiyohi County**

For over 20 years, Master Gardeners have used the county fair as a primary source for reaching people with research-based Extension information. In 2010 they published a three page handout on “Tips from Kandiyohi county Gardeners.” In recent years they have used a ‘scarecrow contest’ to help estimate the number of people visiting the display garden at the fair, this year tallied over 800. In addition to hosting the information booth, Master Gardeners host their live weekly radio show from the fair.

### **Lake County**

Master Gardeners assisted with a rain garden design and installation at the Lake County Courthouse. The rain garden will filter contaminants before it enters the storm sewer system that drains into Lake Superior. A Master Gardener served as the overall supervisor and trainer for Minnesota Conservation Corps and 4-H members who planted and mulched over 1000 plants in the garden.

### **Lake of the Woods County**

In addition to writing newspaper articles, Master Gardeners presented three repeated informational demonstrations on horticultural topics at the Lake of the Woods County Fair.

### **Le Sueur County**

As is true in most counties, the county fair booth in Le Sueur County is a primary project used to educate local residents on horticultural topics. In 2010 the education was about ground covers. Master Gardeners also answer consumer calls, write gardening articles, and work at public gardens to identify plants.



*Lake of the Woods County Master Gardeners use the county fair as a venue for teaching.*

### **Lyon County**

Master Gardeners used a county fair booth to highlight several education topics focused on insects including the emerald ash borer and Monarch butterfly. An ‘Ask to See the Giant Grub’ display featured grubs of the Ox beetle and especially drew the interest of children.

### **Mille Lacs County**

Master Gardeners were not just participants in a shoreline restoration workshop. Master Gardeners assisted the Extension educator facilitating the workshop. They instructed Conservation Corp youth and other attendees about how to plant the native plants used in the shoreline buffer constructed during the workshop.

### **Minnesota River Valley Master Gardeners**

Master Gardeners produce a fifteen minute program each week for the Mankato cable access television. Programs are aired twice each week. The programs are archived on DVD’s and used during the year for meeting presentations.

### **Mower County**

For a third year, Master Gardeners oversaw a youth garden program, this year being a site for the Arboretum’s ‘Veggies by the Yard’ program. Each week youth took part in a two-hour program that included nutrition education, games and work in the garden. Youth harvested 193 pounds of produce that was used in the program, sold at a farmers market or given to a food shelf.



*JMG youth in Olmsted County not only picked strawberries, they turned them into jam.*

### **Murray County**

In its tenth year, the Murray County Master Gardener Summer Garden Tour remains a hit. Over 155 people toured seven rural and lake property gardens on the tour.

### **Olmsted County**

The Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program at the Boys and Girls Club in Rochester is in its second year and is growing. The year-round project uses JMG curriculum. Taught by Master Gardeners, the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade youth grew salad greens hydroponically, forced bulbs and flowers in a Grow Lab for Mother's Day, and raise vegetables in raised beds constructed on a blacktop surface.

### **Pennington County**

In commemoration of Pennington County's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Master Gardeners featured Century Farms in the county for the Summer Garden Tour. A Master Gardener was a tour guide for bus transportation. Farms featured historical and sentimental garden art as well as traditional vegetable gardens.

### **Pine County**

"The Importance of Biodiversity on Organic Gardening" was the featured topic at the eighth annual Pine County Horticulture Day planned and hosted by Master Gardeners. The speakers and the event received very high evaluation ratings by the 180 who attended this popular horticultural education event.

### **Ramsey County**

Along with a wide variety of traditional and unique outreach projects undertaken by Master Gardeners, a special project that promotes peace, at of all places Ramsey County Yard Waste sites, got the attention of major stakeholders in 2010. A Master Gardener volunteer and the staff coordinator worked in partnership to support a Girl Scout troop on this project. The entire project is documented on a series of YouTube video clips:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/peacepolegardens>. The Peace Pole dedication drew county commissioners, county administrators, University of Minnesota staff and a state legislator.

### **Renville County**

Master Gardeners have been assisting with the landscaping at the county fairgrounds since 1994 when the fair board asked for Master Gardeners to help with tree selection, placement and planting. Each year since, new plants have been incorporated into the fairgrounds garden. Master Gardeners use a booth at the fair to answer horticulture questions and share Extension research-based information.

### **Rock County**

Master Gardeners organize a farmer's market-style plant sale each spring. The sale event provides a great opportunity for Master Gardeners to answer horticulture questions and provide instruction on basic landscaping principles.

### **Stearns County**

Three formal educational outreach efforts have become a recognized tradition of Stearns County Master Gardeners. The programs focus on different levels of expertise. Gardening Knowledge for Free is a half-day beginning level workshop offering a menu of 60 minute classes. Horticulture Day is an annual day-long spring event designed at a more advanced level that would meet requirements for Master Gardener continuing education hours. Rose Education



*Ramsey County Commissioners, County Environmental Services Staff and University staff joined Master Gardeners and Girl Scouts to dedicate the peace pole project.*

Day is a specialized educational opportunity that features University personnel, Master Gardeners and certified rosarians as speakers.

### **Steele County**

To increase visibility and educational outreach through the county fair, Master Gardeners present three short programs in addition to staffing their 'Ask a Master Gardener' booth. Mini-programs on seed saving techniques, building a lettuce table, and repurposing and recycling for the home garden were conducted. The goal was to reach ten percent of the estimated 300,000 fairgoers.



*Traverse County Junior Master Gardeners use the theme "It's Raining Barrels" for a display promoting the construction and use of rain barrels.*

### **Traverse County**

Master Gardeners and Junior Master Gardeners joined forces in hosting a 'Garden Trends for 2010' workshop that drew over 70 participants. The workshop included five horticulture classes, a rain garden class presented in partnership with the local Soil and Water Conservation District staff and take-home packets of information on recycling and composting. Junior Master Gardeners created a display on rain barrels and demonstrated how to construct a rain barrel. The rain barrel was conducted to provide participants with a chance to take home a rain barrel.

### **UMN Master Gardeners in Washington County**

The annual plant sale is one of the largest community outreach and educational events conducted by Master Gardeners. While serving as a primary source of revenue for the program that has no county funding, Extension office or staff, it is much more than a typical sale. Master Gardeners staffed nine educational displays that ranged from Monarch butterfly information to rain gardens to vermiculture. They provide educational information about all plants for sale and staff a plant diagnostic clinic. Nearly all Master Gardeners are involved in some aspect of hosting this event that draws 300 community members.

### **Watsonwan County**

Master Gardeners host a spring and a fall 'Plant and Bulb' exchange. The events have become popular, drawing people from throughout the region. Master Gardeners oversee two community gardens that provide residents in St. James and in Madelia an opportunity to learn about gardening and grow their own produce. A State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant is helping to increase community gardens across the county.

### **Winona County**

Master Gardeners host a horticulture education day that draws about 70 participants. The event features three speakers. In addition to garden-related vendors, they also conduct a book sale and silent auction. Participants gave the event high ratings on the post-event evaluation. Data collected on the evaluation also helped Master Gardeners learn what changes could be made in the program that would improve the experience for participants.

### **Yellow Medicine County**

Master Gardeners planted and maintained an organic, heirloom kitchen demonstration garden for the Lund-Hoel Museum in Canby. They utilized only heirloom plant varieties and organic insect and disease control practices. Soil was amended with organic materials including composted buffalo manure. Master Gardeners conducted discussion tours of the garden with museum visitors.



*A Yellow Medicine County Master Gardener uses informal teaching to share knowledge about heirloom vegetables and organic gardening practices.*

## Recognizing Master Gardener Volunteer Hour and Tenure Benchmarks

Each year the Master Gardener Program recognizes Master Gardener volunteers who have reached benchmarks for the number of accumulated hours they have contributed and for years of service. In 2010 these include:

### Hours of Service

- 22 Master Gardeners reached 1000 hours of service
- 6 Master Gardeners reached 2000 hours of service
- 1 Master Gardener reached 5000 hours of service
- 1 Master Gardener reached 7000 hours of service
- Leonard Gloeb, Ramsey County reach 18,000 hours of service

### Years of Service

- 105 Master Gardeners completed 10 years of service
- 45 Master Gardeners completed 15 years of service
- 30 Master Gardeners completed 20 years of service
- 15 Master Gardeners completed 25 years of service including:

Kim Busse, Blue Earth  
Barb Maher, Blue Earth  
Patricia Thiem, Blue Earth  
Erma Carlson, Clearwater  
Marian Kleinwort, Dodge  
Mary Faustgen, Hennepin  
Jane Yunginger, Olmsted  
George Menshik, Olmsted  
Kathryn Strebbling, Olmsted  
Betty Kezar, Pennington  
Blanchard Krogstad, East Polk  
Lois Ann Helgeson, Ramsey  
Beverly Singewald, Ramsey  
Norma Dovre, Yellow Medicine

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

*Margaret Mead*

## Where Do You Find Master Gardeners Across the State?

- **45%** (1,024) of Master Gardener volunteers are located in the 7-county metro area, plus Stearns County (St. Cloud). Each of these counties has over 100 MG.
- **20%** (444) of Master Gardener volunteers are located in 8 additional counties, counties associated with larger regional population hubs (Fergus Falls, Rochester, Duluth, Alexandria, Brainerd) or suburban metro areas. Each of these counties has between 40–85 MG.
- **18%** (407) of MG volunteers are located in 14 counties that have mid-size populations and are often serve as regional hubs (Willmar, Mankato, Winona, Thief River Falls, Bemidji, Hutchinson) or are metro ‘commuter’ counties (Kanabec, Isanti, Chisago, Goodhue, etc.) Each of these counties has between 20-39 MG.
- **11%** (244) of Master Gardener volunteers are located in 18 counties that have less population. Each of these counties has between 11 – 19 MG.
- **4%** (99) of MG volunteers are located in 13 counties in more rural areas with smaller population and most are volunteer-led programs. Each of these counties has between 6 – 10 MG.
- **2%** (51) of MG volunteers are located across 25 counties in the most sparsely populated counties in Minnesota. Each of these counties has between 0-5 MG.

### 2010 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**2,269 University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Volunteers  
127,780 volunteer hours contributed  
56.3 hour average contribution per volunteer  
Total Dollar value of volunteer time: \$2,670,602**

*The value of volunteer service is calculated using Independent Sector’s nationally recognized formula to determine dollar value of volunteer time. For more information visit:*

[http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)

## From the State Office ...

### **HORT 1003 Master Gardener Core Course / Horticulture for the Home Garden - 3 credits; 48 classroom hours**

The Master Gardener core course is offered online and in three face-to-face locations. It is comprised of 16 modules, each focused on volunteering in the program or a horticulture-related topic. In 2010, the online core course migrated to the popular Moodle platform. Master Gardener interns chose to take the class online, face-to-face or as a hybrid. All students accessed the online class to complete pre and post quizzes for each module to help them measure their learning levels. In 2010, 206 Master Gardener interns successfully completed core course.

- 105- Chaska (Arboretum)**
- 26- Pine City**
- 16- Mankato**
- 59- Online**

### **New Summer School for Master Gardeners**

Master Gardener Summer School was introduced in 2010 as a new continuing education opportunity. Half of the day-long event was conducted classroom-style. Extension's consumer horticulture educators and faculty provided updated information on current 'hot topics' relevant to Master Gardener work. The latest information on Emerald Ash Borer and low maintenance turf research were among the topics. Master Gardeners literally got their hands dirty in hands-on workshops the remainder of the day. Practice pruning trees, diagnosing plant problems and identifying turf grasses were among the topics of the engaging workshops. Planned by Extension's consumer horticulture team and hosted by local

Master Gardeners, nearly 300 volunteers participated at three sites around Minnesota.

- 180 – Chaska (Arboretum)**
- 48 – Rochester**
- 64 – Alexandria**

### **New Master Gardener Website Developed**

The Master Gardener website was redesigned in 2010. After months of work, the new site debuted in February 2011. The goal of the redesign was to make the website more user-friendly and to consolidate all resources for Master Gardener program coordinators and volunteers in one location. The public portion of the page was revised to include clearer information about the program and feature stories about local Master Gardener work. Visit the site at:

[www.mg.umn.edu](http://www.mg.umn.edu)

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## Master Gardener Volunteer Numbers by County

<b>County</b>	<b><u>Number of Master Gardener volunteers</u></b>	<b><u>Volunteer Hours</u></b>	<b><u>Continuing Education Hours</u></b>
<b>Aitkin</b>	3	194	42
<b>Anoka</b>	97	5753	1632
<b>Becker</b>	19	1160	196
<b>Beltrami</b>	26	1441	146
<b>Benton</b>	25	942	224
<b>Big Stone</b>	0	0	0
<b>Blue Earth</b>	33	1042	242
<b>Brown</b>	29	1492	235
<b>Carlton</b>	13	749	54
<b>Carver-Scott</b>	105	5534	1151
<b>Cass</b>	0	0	0
<b>Chippewa</b>	13	458	123
<b>Chisago</b>	21	1420	195
<b>Clay</b>	15	853	92
<b>Clearwater</b>	7	238	42
<b>Cook</b>	11	446	74
<b>Cottonwood</b>	3	210	23
<b>Crow Wing</b>	57	3275	440
<b>Dakota</b>	137	12178	2967
<b>Dodge</b>	7	302	34
<b>Douglas</b>	58	2900	541
<b>Faribault</b>	8	331	57
<b>Fillmore</b>	8	326	56
<b>Freeborn</b>	9	136	24
<b>Goodhue</b>	26	2060	390
<b>Grant</b>	0	27	6
<b>Hennepin</b>	294	16139	4587
<b>Houston</b>	10	257	57
<b>Hubbard</b>	12	500	103
<b>Isanti</b>	36	1448	302
<b>Itasca</b>	34	1977	242
<b>Jackson</b>	3	139	10
<b>Kanabec</b>	27	1427	337
<b>Kandiyohi</b>	39	2408	401
<b>Kittson</b>	1	31	18
<b>Koochiching</b>	0	0	0
<b>Lac Que Parle</b>	0	0	0
<b>Lake</b>	7	356	57
<b>Lake of the Woods</b>	8	578	177
<b>Le Sueur</b>	11	669	93
<b>Lincoln</b>	1	0	0
<b>Lyon</b>	6	707	46
<b>Mahnomen</b>	1	33	7
<b>Marshall</b>	2	79	10
<b>Martin</b>	5	62	25

McLeod	23	1339	236
Meeker	17	802	126
Mille Lacs	14	960	93
Morrison	16	695	164
Mower	9	449	44
Murray	12	469	61
Nicollet	16	824	151
Norman	2	65	22
Olmsted	82	4314	688
Otter Tail-East	40	1827	364
Otter Tail-West	49	2596	464
Pennington	27	1179	214
Pine	52	2985	582
Pipestone	5	287	91
Polk	2	94	50
Polk-East	1	59	0
Pope	8	307	71
Ramsey	151	8372	2444
Redwood	1	49	5
Renville	14	687	125
Rice	31	1699	273
Rock	6	424	201
Roseau	1	41	5
Sherburne	12	1930	482
Sibley	2	65	9
St. Louis	61	2731	545
Stearns	127	6643	1309
Steele	15	638	112
Stevens	12	759	142
Swift	2	200	27
Todd	11	874	149
Traverse	5	304	42
Wabasha	3	119	13
Wadena	4	289	41
Waseca	4	132	36
Washington	113	6824	1943
Watonwan	11	421	61
Winona	30	1676	222
Wright	45	2762	565
Yellow Medicine	6	619	62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>127,781</b>	<b>27,685</b>