



UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences:  
[www.extension.uga.edu](http://www.extension.uga.edu)

UGA Athens Clarke County Cooperative Extension  
Agriculture and Natural Resource Website:  
<http://www.caes.uga.edu/clarke/anr/index.html>



**THE GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM**



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& area Master Gardener Coordinator



University of Georgia Extension Master Gardener program website:  
[www.gamastergardener.org](http://www.gamastergardener.org)  
Georgia Master Gardener Association website:  
[www.georgiamastergardeners.com](http://www.georgiamastergardeners.com)

**MISSION STATEMENT of the GEORGIA EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:**

To assist Cooperative Extension by training Extension Master Gardener Volunteers to provide unbiased horticultural information through volunteer community service and educational gardening projects using applied research and the resources of the University of Georgia.



[www.caes.uga.edu](http://www.caes.uga.edu)



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

*Georgia Master Gardener*

### Mission of UGA Cooperative Extension:

To extend lifelong learning to the people of Georgia through unbiased, research-based education in agriculture, the environment, communities, youth and families.



Cooperative Extension Service  
Program Areas

### Master Gardener History



Georgia Master Gardeners

### Georgia MG History

- o 1979 First class- 140 participants from Atlanta area.
- o 1988 First Master Gardener Conference in Athens.
- o 1990 First official GMGA meeting.
- o 2009 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Currently

- o Over 3000 Active Georgia Master Gardeners
- o 140, 000+ hours of service each year
- o 108 (of 159) counties participating



### Athens Area Master Gardener

- o Approximately 150 active Master Gardeners in local area
- o In 2010 Athens Area Master Gardeners contributed over 11,800 hours of volunteer service in their communities with over 32,000 contacts with the public
- o 33 students in the class of 2011
- o 34 students in the class of 2012



### You might meet a Master Gardener who...

- Attends her child's soccer games to inspect the field for crabgrass...
- Has at least one garden tool held together by duct tape....
- Knows the precise botanical name of every plant in his yard but has difficulty remembering the names of his relatives...
- Clips her child's hair into topiary forms...

### Or a Master Gardener who...

- Has bought beer solely for slug control...
- Has discussed at a dinner party the pros and cons of sterilizing soil in her oven...
- Enjoys receiving a gift of manure instead of diamonds on special occasions
- Has a bumper sticker that reads: "I brake for worms," "I'd Rather be Weeding," or "Manure Happens!"

### What's a Master Gardener?

#### Extension Volunteer Training Program

40 hours classroom instruction

+

50 hours of volunteer service to Cooperative Extension

=

Certified Master Gardener



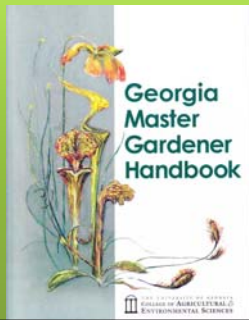
← 25 hours annually

### BENEFITS OF BECOMING A GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER

- Education
- Handbook
- Badge
- Local Group Meetings
- Regional Conferences
- International Conferences
- GMGA Membership

*Georgia Master Gardeners*

### Master Gardener Handbook



### Master Gardener Badge



- only to be worn in a volunteer capacity, never to promote a commercial product or business



**Advanced Training**

*Georgia Master Gardeners*

### GMGA Membership & benefits

- *The Scoop* newsletter each quarter
- Project Funding
- State Conferences
- Special Events



*Georgia Master Gardeners*

### GMGA State Conferences



**Project Funding**

*Georgia Master Gardeners*

### Upcoming Conferences and meetings

- Georgia Master Gardener Association conference – April 20-21, 2012, Cherokee County, GA
- Southern Region Master Gardener Conference – May 2-5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Natchez, Mississippi
- International Master Gardener Conference – September 7-14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Alaskan Cruise!



**Conferences**

### International Conferences



## Athens Area Master Gardeners



- Monthly meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month at 6pm)
- Educational speaker or garden tour each meeting
- Monthly newsletter and weekly announcements
- Numerous volunteer projects throughout the community
- A great way to continue your education

## Master Gardener Day



## MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROJECTS



*Georgia Master Gardeners*

## What counts as Approved Service?

- Master Gardener desk at Extension office
- Plant a Row Gardens
- Display or Education Gardens
- School Gardens
- Civic or Garden Club demonstrations
- Magazine or newspaper articles & columns
- AG Days & Fair Displays
- Farmer's Market booth
- Children's programs (Junior Master Gardener)
- Adult Classes
- TV and radio programs
- Research for fact sheets
- Plant clinics & Exhibits
- Program administration
- Advisory Committees

**Not sure if something counts for hours? Ask Amanda**

## Assisting County Agents



*Georgia Master Gardeners*

## Teaching Classes



### Plant Clinics



Georgia Master Gardeners

### Demonstration Gardens



### Urban and Community Gardens



### H-H

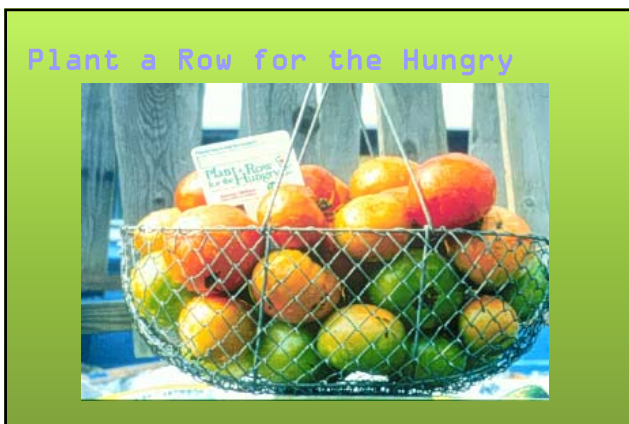


### Therapy & Enabled Gardening



### Schoolyard Gardens





**What does not count**

- Any **service** for which you receive **pay**
- Attending general Local Association, GMGA or International Association **meetings**.
- Advanced or other **training** which you were not involved in setting up or teaching.
- Attending **flower shows, events, educational classes, activities** etc that you did not help to set up, teach at.

**Class Format**

- Arrive by 8:45am for each class
- Sign in, pick up your badge and any handouts or quizzes
- Announcements begin at 8:45 for volunteer opportunities
- Lecture begins at 9:00am
- Break at 10am for snacks and such
- Complete quiz by snack break at 10am
- Class begins again at 10:15 sharp
- Class adjourns by 11:30am each morning

### Where to turn in your hours at the end of the year:

- Annual Summary of all volunteer hours and log sheet to Amanda
- Volunteer time at Botanical Garden to Andrea
- Remember to fill out your log sheet as you volunteer, don't try to guess and remember at the end of the year

### Additional information:

- Listservs from Extension office
- Veteran Master Gardeners may attend your classes as a "refresher"
- Class roster will be distributed on Tuesday

### Announcements

- Snacks signup
- Breaks
- Daily Quizzes
- Parking
- Chopping up your handbook
- Weather Schedule
- Front Gate



Happy Gardening (and Learning)!