



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Master Gardener Projects 2006



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BELKNAP COUNTY

Belknap County Nursing Home Courtyard Garden – 2006 Intern Project

*Deanna Campbell, Nel Garden, Eleanor Morrison, Marnie Schulz,
Kathleen Mitchell*

The courtyard at the Belknap County Nursing Home in Laconia is looking a lot more colorful these days thanks to five Master Gardener Interns who have been working weekly since last March to develop flower gardens for the residents and staff to enjoy.

In fall 2005, Belknap County Interns were given the chance to turn stones and concrete into a floral haven for the nursing home residents to enjoy. They brought extra perennials from their own gardens and purchased plants locally. The courtyard was filled with many different types and colors of flowers. This large garden was designed to appeal to the residents and to attract birds and butterflies to the area.

As the project progressed, the Interns learned that they were actually continuing a tradition know as the pass-along garden – that is, plants that are shared with friends, family, or neighbors to create gardens that connect people, places and special memories. Deanna, Nel, Ellie, Marnie and Kathleen were especially pleased when one of the residents asked them to include in the garden a plant that she had been tending since the winter. Steve Bender writes about pass-along gardens: “You don’t need a Ph.D, horticultural library or yardman to belong to the pass-along club. All that’s required is a piece of earth and a generous spirit.”

Nursing home residents, their families, staff and local citizens are grateful for the time, energy, dedication and love that our Belknap County Master Gardener Interns put into their work. Thank you so much!

New in 2006

New Hampton Day Care Program

Deanna Campbell and Ellie Morrison taught small children how to plant and take care of a garden at the New Hampton Day Care.

Ozanam Place

Ozanam Place provides support for single, low-income mothers. Sally Doten and Karen Ober met with case workers to plan a flower and herb garden. Companion gardening techniques were used in this small garden.

Meredith Farmers' Market

We were very happy to welcome Marilyn Patenaude who transferred from Rhode Island's MG program. Marilyn answered garden-related questions and distributed UNH Cooperative Extension fact sheets at the Meredith Farmers' Market this summer.

Tried & True

Belknap County Nursing Home – Class of 2005

During 2006, Shirley Splaine, Suzanne Simmons and Kathleen Kozak maintained a garden they planted at the Belknap County Nursing Home in 2005. This garden is truly a labor of love. It has become a popular hang-out for residents and nursing home staff who are outside for fresh air and to soak up the sun. Throughout the summer, local musicians entertained residents and staff (Shirley, Suzanne and Kathleen too!) in this beautiful courtyard garden.

Spring Plant Sale

Master Gardener Veteran Terry Schneider welcomes our group to her home each spring for a plant sale, held to raise funds for our county projects. Our volunteers work long hours to dig and pot plants and to set up, work and clean up after the plant sale. We are thankful for Terry's generosity, energy and good will.

New Beginnings is a domestic crisis shelter in Laconia. Gardens planted by Master Gardeners in 2000 and 2001 were deadheaded, fertilized, pruned and mulched.

Prescott Farm Audubon Center is home to flower, herb, fruit and vegetable gardens planted by our MG's. Ursula Allen works tirelessly to care for these gardens. Many people are touched by the gardens at Prescott Farm by way of Audubon camps for children and workshops for community members.

Composting Lessons were taught to children by Diane Drouin.

The Historic Rowe House in Gilford was planted and tended by Marge Meuhlke and Carmel Lancia.

Smith Meeting House gardens at this historic property in Gilmanton were cared for by Bunny Zela-Desilets and Ginger Wells-Kay.

Gardens in Downtown Center Harbor

Janet Stearns and Helen Heiner worked together to plant and maintain gardens in Center Harbor.

A note from Amy Ouellette, Agricultural Resources Educator, Belknap County:

I want to thank you for a wonderful garden season. I am pleased with your dedication to our county Master Gardener program. Your time and hard work make a tremendous contribution to our community. We have been successful working toward our goal to Make *education* the main emphasis of our county projects. Enjoy the winter and your holidays.

C H E S H I R E C O U N T Y

Master Gardeners, both new interns and longtime active members, have kept busy throughout Cheshire County in the 2005 season.

New interns Mike Given, Judy Perry, Beth Provost, Eileen Sarson, and Kathy Weibel completed projects in Keene and Jaffrey. Judy, Beth, and Eileen worked with students at Keene High School to renovate a courtyard on the school grounds. In addition to making the area more attractive, students learned basic landscape design concepts and horticultural skills. Mike and Kathy worked with middle school students in Jaffrey and Rindge at two sites: The Jaffrey Rails to Trails Project, where they installed a seating area along the trails offering a scenic view of the Contoocook River; and the Cathedral of the Pines, where they put in a Zen garden. In addition to learning about Japanese culture and Zen philosophy, students learned basic gardening skills. The project was funded in part by a grant from the NH Master Gardener Association.

Active MG's continued to work at the Maplewood Demonstration Garden located at the county complex in Westmoreland. Instead of growing a wide variety of vegetables in the garden, MG's decided to concentrate on growing winter squash, with the produce donated to the Community Kitchen in Keene. They selected winter squash because the kitchen receives lots of produce from gardeners during the growing season, but it tapers off quickly in the fall. In this way, we were able to provide nearly 1,000 pounds of squash and pumpkins to the kitchen, supplying fresh vegetables well into the fall.

FAMILY, HOME & GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER

Report written and submitted by Anne Krantz '97

The Family, Home & Garden Education Center opened in 2000 to serve New Hampshire citizens by providing a call-in center for family, home and garden questions and a site for adult education classes. Master Gardener volunteers perform both these jobs.

For seven years these specially trained Master Gardeners have volunteered thousands of hours to answer the toll-free Info Line phones at the Education Center. They provide personal and timely answers to an incredible range of questions with accurate, up-to-date, scientifically-based information.

Last year Master Gardeners volunteered 3,204 hours to answer 6736 homeowner questions, including 1275 e-mails. E-mail questions were up from 712 e-mails the previous year, and are answered by volunteers during regular Info Line hours.

To ensure an adequate number of Info Line volunteers, a special course is taught in the fall and spring, graduating about 40 interns annually. Each intern is required to volunteer 45 hours at the Education Center to become a full-fledged Master Gardener. Obviously 45 hours is not enough to learn everything; experienced Master Gardeners are crucial to maintain adequate volunteer staffing at the Education Center.

To sustain the necessary pool of trained Master Gardeners, fabulous continuing education opportunities are offered regularly. These take the form of refresher classes for active Master Gardeners so they can brush up on familiar topics and learn new subject matter. This advanced training not only keeps volunteers interested in the program, but improves the quality of the Info Line answers. The aim is to increase both the depth and breadth of the volunteers' knowledge. Refresher classes are offered at no cost to Info Line volunteers. They are an incentive for volunteers to maintain active Master Gardener status, a requirement of a mere 15 volunteer hours per year. Some of the topics taught in the spring Master Gardener refresher course included Mold & Mildew, Pond Management, Backyard Livestock, and Avian Flu. The fall class included the topics of Lawn Weeds and Their Control, Shoreland Protection, Avian Flu, West Nile Virus, EEE, and Permaculture. Look for more fascinating and worthwhile classes next year.

A sincere thank you to the outstanding team of devoted and loyal Master Gardeners who regularly volunteer at the Center while providing an invaluable resource to the people of New Hampshire. The callers are delighted to talk to a real person about their problems, and are even more pleased when they discover the wealth of information that is available though the UNHCE Family, Home & Garden Education Center. The efficiently organized Center allows volunteers to give answers quickly to the most obscure questions. The fast turn-around means that callers get resource-based solutions to their problems, and won't be tempted to rush ahead with a less than ideal solution.

This past year thirteen evening and weekend workshops, taught by Master Gardener volunteers, attracted 106 participants from all over the state. A wide variety of topics were offered from basic workshops like Organic Gardening, Winter Scapes, making Mountain Laurel Wreaths to specialized topics such as Winter Tree Identification and Hydroponics.

Master Gardener volunteers are the backbone of the Education Center. Rachel Maccini, Education Center Coordinator, praises the volunteers, “They are competent, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and loyal and without them the Education Center would not be able to function.”

Anne Krantz says, “We all want to stay up-to-date, and personally enjoy working at the Center because we can continuously access the latest information the Center provides. We are proud to be a part of this unique educational opportunity for NH homeowners.”

**Cynthia Acorace-
Intern
Sharon Akers
Ellen Alexander
Cynthia Anderson
Susan Andersen
Raymond Aubut
Kathleen Avedisian
Maria Awad
Mary Jo Baker
Jim Barker
Bonnie Barlow- Intern
Sacha Begg
Susan Bennett
Kathleen Berglund
Fran Better
Pauline Bogaert-
Intern
Barbro Bohl
Katherine Boire
Joan Bonnette
Kevin Borrows
Madeline Boulanger
Lois Breingan- Intern
Debbie Brennan
Trisha Brizicky- Intern
Spencer Brookes
Ginger Brown
Kathy Brundage
Diane Buckner**

**Tabby Burak
Vanessa Burnes-
Intern
Doris Burns- Intern
Leonard Bushnell
Patricia Caisse
Connie Campbell
Jeanne Campbell
Jeanne Caron
Pete Caron
Deborah Carpenter
Charlene Carr
Nancy Carrier- Int
Kathleen Cartier
Susan Christensen
Theresa Ciulla
Michelle Clark
Jerry Cline
Doreen Colburn
Nancy Cole
Pamela Condon
Neil Connell
Laurie Conrad
Stephen Cornish
Sara Cox
Carol Cremen- Intern
Liz Dance
Juanita Dangel
Steve Davidson
Linda Demico- Intern**

**Lisa DeMio
Ellen DeRosa
Rita Desruisseaux
Mary DiBello- Intern
Nancy DiMattia
Bev Dickey
Lynn Dini
Martha Doelle
Priscilla Donahey
Patti Dulong
Eva Dunn
Chong Suk Dwyer
Stephanie Eno
Michele Estey
Carol Figueroa
Clare Flynn
Martha Fountain
Robert Fox
Susan Frenette
Beth Gage
Monica Gallant
Sarah Giles
Jack Gleason
John Gleeson
Julie Glosner- Intern
Ian Gurney- Intern
Maureen Hamel
John Herper
Sally Hewett
Frances Hill**

James Hilton
Carol Howard
Sachiki Howard
Jana Howe
Barbara Hughes
Judi Hull
Pamela Jackson
Marion Jacobi
Estelle James
Jackie Jendrick
Patricia Joy- Intern
Gayle Jureka
Thomas Kamberis
Jane Karavas
Sidney Kaylor
Marion Keith
Marilyn Kelley
Esau Kerr- Intern
Sara Kjendal
Lisa Komm
Susan Koehler
Anne Krantz
Susan Kroehl
Lisa LaFleur
Elaine Lander
Mary Lapiana
Elizabeth LeClair
Linda Lemaire
Guy Lessard
Jan Litvin

Erin Lynch
Carol Mackell
Judith Maclean-
Whalen
George Malette
Bruse Manchester
Lynn Marion
Casey Martel
Mary Mattingly
Pamela Mikkola
William Moreen
Alice Mullen
James Nelson
Fran O'Brien
Evelyn Ogle
Mary Paveglio-
InternDon Peters-
Intern
Jack Potter
Gerard Powers
Joan Pushee
Jacqui Pyzocha
Jim Ramanek
Susie Rentas
Anthony ReSavage
Maureen Riordan
Mann
Sarah Robinson
Diana Rouleau
Susan Rysanek- Intern

Mary Salmon
Debbie Sawyer
Rosalie Scher
Louis Scotto
Benedict Sgro- Intern
Judy Siemonsma
Amy Sletten
Jim Smith
Berverly Jo Snyder-
Int
Eleanor Spencer
Marcy Stanton
Jane Stefanik
Pat Tedesco
Sharon Thompson
Diane VanDyke
Evelyn Verbeck
Jan Ward
Michelle Wheeler-
Inter
Cara Whittum
Diane Williams
Susan Wiles
Mathilda Wilmot
Jackie Winn
Shelly Wolcott
Cheryl York-Cail
Kay Young

Finally, sincere thanks to our talented and faithful Administrative Assistant Pam Doherty who manages the calendar, lets us know where we should be and when, and generally keeps track of everything, including all our volunteer hours.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Report written and submitted by Patricia Caisse

Hillsborough County Master Gardeners had a very busy, productive and educational year. Forty-two Master Gardeners volunteered 1767 hours of their time in a variety of activities and projects that were a significant benefit to each of their communities.

Mary Jo Baker '03 gave a short talk and demonstration to the Merrimack Garden Club on pruning lilacs. To prepare for this she attended a pruning session at Shieling Forest and researched pruning in various books.

Paul Belheumer '93 gave a talk at the Lake Street School in Manchester.

Christy Belvin '00 took part in the ongoing maintenance of the public space at the corner of Sunset and Boston Post roads in Amherst. She also worked with the group rejuvenating (pruning, weeding, planting, etc.) the Memory Garden at Elliot Hospital in Manchester. This garden was made ready for the annual memorial service held in the Elliot Hospital's Memory Garden for families who have lost a baby. Christy is co-chair of the Hillsborough County chapter of the NHMGA.

Susan Bennett '05 also did pruning, clean up and transplanting at Elliot Hospital's Memory Garden. This garden hadn't been touched in years. It looked much better when the group was finished, but there is still some work that needs to be done.

Joan Bonnette '01 handled registrations for the Joint Continuing Education Committee, attended Continuing Education Committee meetings and wrote a variety of horticultural newsletter articles for the Nashua Garden Club. Joan also gave talks for the Nashua Garden Club and did a Power Point presentation for a summer bulbs workshop. She also spent many hours volunteering at the Brookside International Community Garden.

Jacqueline Bower '02 wrote a column for "New Hampshire Outside."

Spencer Brookes '04 served on the Joint Continuing Education Committee representing both the Master Gardeners and the NH Tree Stewards. He also participated in cone harvesting at the NH State Forest Nursery in Boscawen.

Diane Buckner '04 directed and produced gardening segments for Gardeners Journey (GTV) in Goffstown, NH. One of the topics covered was How to Make a Christmas Wreath. Coming soon will be "Petal to Paint", an Art in Bloom type format, recorded at the East Colony Fine Arts in Manchester, NH. She received very positive feedback on the wreath making segment which aired 18 times.

Patricia Caisse '04 manned the UNHCE booth at the Farm and Forest Expo, Radisson Hotel, Manchester. She sorted tree seedlings at the State Forest Nursery in Boscawen, NH. Pat also compiled information for and produced the Hillsborough County Master Gardeners' annual report for 2005-2006. In addition she wrote a variety of articles on gardening for the Milford Garden Club newsletter. Pat continues to maintain the gardens at Keyes Field in Milford, NH.

Connie Campbell '00 was one of the writers for the North Country Garden Calendar.

Debbie Carpenter '05 set up a Master Gardener table at the Bedford Farmers' Market and answered questions about gardening. She also met with a committee to plan the garden project at Hillsboro-Deering Middle School. Deb brought information on sustainable gardening and on gardening with children; she also researched the topic of school gardens for them.

Martha Coutts-Eisenberg '00 did 2 projects with Nashua's Saint John Neumann Day Away Program (a respite care program for adults with Alzheimer's disease or dementia). They used plant materials to make centerpieces for the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. She also designed, drew the plan and made the plant list for the Frankestown Village Oak Hill Triangle. She made phone calls, planned and organized the group participating and planting the project. Martha hosted the NHMGA summer twilight at her garden. She also worked with the group of 4 Master Gardeners preparing the Elliot Hospital Memory Garden for the Memorial Day service. Lastly, Martha worked with Christy Belvin as co-horticulturist for the Anherst Garden Club to educate and give members horticultural news and information. They covered how to plant a tree correctly, how to substitute different species of trees and shrubs for invasive species, how to plant bulbs, talked about the joys of peonies, and did a show and tell with a stump from a burning bush.

Kathy Dillard '00 worked on the Memorial Garden at Elliot Hospital and at Stark Street Park, both in Manchester. She helped plant the vegetable garden at Brookside Church and assisted Bob Fox at the Joppa Hill Farm. Kathy also put together the Hillsborough County Exhibit for the 2005 MG Annual Conference.

Priscila Donahey '02 created Fact Sheets on Insects and Animals in the Home.

Sara Dowse '93 coordinated a school landscaping project along with students, faculty, and volunteers. This project was started several years ago at Contoocook Valley High School in Peterborough. The landscape is maturing and the need for maintenance is very high. Sara also did pruning, replanting and deadheading. The landscaped area now looks cared for and loved - which it didn't before work began. Sara, with the help of volunteers and teachers, also undertook the maintenance of a small wildlife garden that she and others designed and installed at Hancock Elementary School. The garden is developing nicely, but as it is quite formal it needs regular maintenance to look its best. It's starting the school year looking very good.

Patti Dulong '00 conducted a workshop for the Master Gardeners at the FHGEC in Manchester. Participants created take-home solutions for non-toxic cleaning. Patti also lectured the Nashua Garden Club and the Fitzwilliam Garden Club on "Orchids: Growing, Potting, and Insect Problems." Participants brought in their plants for diagnosis, asked lots of questions concerning fertilizers and insect control, and loved the potting demonstration. She presented a lecture on orchids for the Master Gardener Spring Symposium in Concord, providing handouts and answering questions. Patti gave a talk and demonstration to a Cub Scout troop in Manchester concerning soil and seeds. She also staffed the booth at the Farm & Forest Expo, Center of NH, Manchester.

Clare Flynn '03 worked at the Farm and Forest Expo, Center of NH, in Manchester. She

planted annuals and perennials in Stark Street Park which runs along a block of Commercial Street in Manchester. Clare and fellow Master Gardeners also weeded and cleaned up the area. She also made ID tags for the perennials in Stark Street Park. This worthwhile project helps make the city of Manchester an attractive place to live

Robert Fox '04 has devoted an extensive amount of time developing gardens at The Educational Farm, 174 Joppa Hill Road in Bedford. Robert established a public information garden, created signs and made a flower sundial for the Educational Farm; he was elected to the Board of Directors. He did prep work for The Educational Farm fair and assisted at the Strawberry Banke Festival. He also started a seed exchange program with Strawberry Banke.

Jack Gleason '04 tilled the 2000+ square foot community garden at Brookside Church in Manchester, worked with Marcy Stanton on installing plants and turf for the new Milford United Methodist Church, served on the Joint Continuing Education Committee representing Master Gardeners and Tree Stewards and conducted research on pandemics for the MG annual conference.

Maureen Hamel '03 used plants left over from the Francestown and Amherst Garden Club plant sales to renovate some of the landscape plantings at the new Mount Saint Mary's campus in Manchester.

John Herper '04 pruned at the Zimmerman House in Manchester, helped with the set-up for Farm & Forest, worked on the Spring Symposium, and was the president of the NHMGA.

Mary Hoppe '00 continued to rehabilitate the wildflower trail at Beaver Brook in Hollis. Wildflowers are returning due to the emphasis on clearing brush and area restoration. Poison Ivy continues to be a problem. Mary is co-chair of the Hillsborough County chapter of the NHMGA.

Marion Keith '03 worked extensively filing, organizing and sorting publications and information sheets at the UNHCE Family, Home & Garden Education Center library.

Anne Krantz '97 continued her work at the Garden Camp at Peabody Mill Environmental Center in Amherst. Enrollment was small but the kids were really engaged and fun. She also writes gardening articles for the Amherst Citizen.

Guy Lessard '05 worked with other MG volunteers and rebuilt the garden entrance to the Manchester Artists Association gallery on Elm St. With volunteer help from Jim at Faulkner's Nursery, they completely rebuilt the garden entrance to provide year round interest and color. He spent time writing the NHMGA grant application, shopping for plants and amendments and then performing the work.

Jan Litvin '00 wrote a NHMGA grant for and oversaw the maintenance of Stark Street Park in Manchester. She also donated and put in many plants. She identified perennial flowers, trees and shrubs so that ID tags could be made to educate visitors to Stark Street Park.

Kelly Merryfield '95 continued her work at the Mont Vernon Village School's bird sanctuary and gardens. She also gave a lecture on "Bringing the Outdoors In" at the Daland Memorial Library in Mont Vernon.

Alice Morris '01 did a show and tell, Q & A at the Weare library gardens. She discussed pruning, fertilizing, mulching and many other topics. She also spent time weeding, pruning and planting at Stark St. Park on Commercial St. in Manchester. Alice also gave a garden talk on various aspects of gardening.

Fran O'Brien '03 recommended changes for the front landscape at the Animal Rescue League on Route 101 in Bedford. She worked on clean-up of the grounds around the shelter. Fran donated plants for front planters, and then made visits to maintain and water the planters. The new front planters look very nice. The trees and shrubs were also trimmed and the front and sides were cleaned-up and mulched. (Fran worked with a group of ARL volunteers on the clean-up). A much improved front entrance is the result. Fran informed those attending the annual Bedford Garden Club Plant Sale on the features and care of the annuals and perennials that were for sale. She talked to those attending who were interested in becoming Master Gardeners. The people were most appreciative to receive advice on plant selection. Fran researched and found articles that could be used for "Grow It Green" tv segments, gathered supplies and made her garden ready for video taping. Fran helped arrange materials on the days when taping was done in her garden. She also staffed 'Ladies Night' at Bedford Fields.

Madeleine Perron '93 continued her work with the Elders on the Grow/Green Thumb Team at the Hillsborough County Nursing Home. She also did a talk on aromatherapy with herbs and flowers.

Joan Pushee'99 continued to work at the day camp for primary school kids at Peabody Mill Environmental Center in Amherst. She also spent time at the community garden for refugees at Brookside Congregational Church in Manchester. As a member of the Joint Continuing Education Committee, she assisted in organizing the 2006 programs and annual conference.

Joan attended Continuing Education Committee meetings, stuffed annual conference folders and worked toward revisions for the MG Handbook.

Russ Scheider '01 did a presentation on Stone Walls for the Nashua Men's Christian Group

Jayne Spaulding '99 manned the Information Table at Bedford Garden Club Plant Sale. She also taught a neighborhood group about mixed border planting, plant care, soil preparation, mulch and maintenance. Jayne assisted a blind elderly man with his vegetable garden in Goffstown and was able to get the entire bed weeded, thinned and mulched.

Marcy Stanton '02 taught classes on hydroponic gardening in Bedford, Amherst and at her house showing the benefits of growing herbs indoors in the winter. Several people obtained materials to set up containers. One used the information to teach other gardeners and another to add to a youth gardening program. Marcy coordinated the landscaping project for the Milford United Methodist Church in Milford. Volunteers learned from

working on this project and it gave many the confidence to do their own home projects and teach others. Marcy also taught seed propagation to a Milford United Methodist Church Youth Group in Milford. The group planted seeds in 6-packs, cared for them, and some even made it through the summer to be planted at the new church. Marcy taught and participated in planting for the Harriet Wilson Memorial Park at the Bicentennial Park in Milford.

Jean Stefanik '04 worked on the International Community Garden project with new families at Brookside Congregational Church on Elm St in Manchester. She also worked at the UNHCE booth at the Farm and Forest Expo in Manchester.

Evelyn Verbak '04 worked as an illustrator for the North Country calendar.

Diane Williams '02 worked with parents and children on a neighborhood beautification project at Westgate Village in Nashua. She gave a demonstration on pruning, deadheading and preparing gardens for the fall at Immaculate Conception Church gardens in Nashua.

Peg Winsor '02 has formed a committee and is working with the garden club to maintain tree health and replace ailing elms and other trees along Route 13, in McCollum Park and at Lamson Farm in Mont Vernon. The group plans to put together a map of town trees, to sponsor 2 "tree appreciation" walks each year, and to start a memorial tree program. She is advancing slowly with various groups in town to integrate this project.

Cheryl York-Cail '03 planned a program for the Amherst Garden Club's Herb Study Group and gave presentations on comfrey and rosemary. She led a seed starting workshop for members of the herb group. Cheryl also represented Master Gardeners at the Joppa Hill Educational Farm in Bedford, NH by answering questions and handing out information.

Kay Young '03 helped to plant, cultivate, water, and harvest the community vegetable garden at Brookside Church on North Elm Street in Manachester. This garden was for Somali, Sudanese, and Turkish/Russian refugees. The participants grew and harvested food for their families, reducing their weekly food bills.

MERRIMACK COUNTY

- Merrimack Academy-Garden, *The county alternative sentencing program for nonviolent felony offenders*. A group of 5 came together to grow annuals and perennials with 4 Master gardeners. The classes were focused on landscape care and basic diagnostics.
Impact:
At risk individuals were taught teamwork, responsibility and were introduced to a possible career choice.
- Concord VNA/Hospice House –*Garden reclamations*.
Impact:
The Master Gardeners made a difference in the lives of terminally ill patients and their families by providing consultation and garden help.
- Merrimack County Office – *Beautification*.
Impact:
Planting, weeding and tending the office grounds for all to enjoy.
- Shaker Village Gardens – *Talks and garden chore volunteering*
Impact:
Citizens learned more about sound gardening techniques and what Cooperative extension has to offer them.
- Master Gardener Speakers Bureau – *Talks given to general audiences*.
Impact:
Over 500 citizens were reached with accurate, environmentally sound gardening education across the county: Increased public awareness on various topics including UNH Cooperative Extension.
- Shea Farm Gardening Project – *Gardening classes for inmates*.
Impact:
Master Gardeners taught basic gardening skills at the Shea farm. The Shea farm is a half way house for women from the state prison. New skills were developed and new gardens opened up.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Ten prospective Master Gardeners were accepted into the fall 2005 class. Seven gardeners, who graduated from the program, have been active in Rockingham County during this past year. They are **Lisa Cote, Tim Loraditch, Judy Martin, Nanette Masi, Matt Rioux, Denise Sarnie and Jane Savage.**

The primary project of the Rockingham County Master Gardeners continues to be the maintenance and support of the Rockingham County Botanical Garden. Interns are invited to accumulate their first-year hours by working at the garden. They join the seasoned Master Gardeners spending time each Thursday planning, planting, nurturing, weeding and harvesting in the Botanical Garden. This year the theme for the garden was "A Garden of Reading". For example, ten of the plants in the kitchen garden were based on The da Vinci Code by Dan Brown: "Marseilles" basil, because the book began in France, "Lunar White" carrots to represent Silas, "Star of David" okra to represent the pentagon and so on.

Our third annual Garden Expo was scheduled to be held on June 24, 2006. Due to severe weather, the event had to be cancelled. We expect to hold next year's Garden Expo on June 23, 2007.

Our annual educational event, Garden Fest, was held on August 26th. Master Gardeners were available to provide how-to information, answer questions and conduct soil tests. Our very popular taste testing was conducted using several varieties of tomatoes and beans. People then voted for their favorites. The winning tomato flavor was Sungold and for the green beans, Maxibel French Filet. Plants dug from Master Gardener's gardens, as well as the Rockingham County Botanical Garden were available for purchase. Prior to Garden Fest, the public had been invited to make scarecrows and display them in the garden. Several scarecrows reflected the theme of "A Garden of Reading". Those in attendance were able to vote for their favorite scarecrow. About 200 people toured the garden that day. Next year's Garden Fest will be August 25, 2007. Please consider visiting us!

This year two open house/twilight events for the public were scheduled at the garden, one in July and one in August. Unfortunately, the first event was rained out. A demonstration of scarecrow making was held on the second evening. One family in attendance made a Cat in the Hat scarecrow that was later displayed at the Garden Fest.

On June 2nd, Master Gardeners and their guests enjoyed an evening Garden Stroll. Master Gardeners **Nanette Masi** and **Ginny Shannon** opened their gardens for viewing and the Newton Greenhouse in Newton, NH also entertained the group.

In August, a group of Master Gardeners and guests traveled to Pickety Place in Mason, NH to view their gardens and for a delicious lunch prepared using a variety of herbs and flowers grown on the premises. On the return trip, the group stopped at Mason Hollow, a nursery specializing in hostas. Most cars were loaded with greenery on the trip home.

Rockingham County Master Gardeners were involved in a variety of projects in their respective communities during the year:

Marilyn Wallingford (96), logged more than 90 hours on town beautification projects in Hampton. With the help of a \$500 grant from the Portsmouth Garden Club, she planned, purchased, prepped, planted, fertilized, pruned, weeded, watered, deadheaded and pick up litter at the town hall, fire station, Five Corners, bus stop, and five triangles. But the area she is most proud of is the gazebo area at Marelli Square. Thanks to the grant money, she was able to purchase shrubs, containers, flowers and supporting materials.

Mary Hildreth (97) submitted some of her drawings for the North Country Calendar. You can see the results on the cover of the calendar as well as on the pages for May and November.

Robert Boutin (04F) worked this past year on a project called “Green Thumb” with Stepping Stones, a group for survivors of brain injury. Using tools specifically designed for people with handicaps, Robert demonstrated their use and helped individuals develop the skills needed to use them, including the use of raised garden beds.

Elizabeth (04F) and Jim Cameron (01) again worked at the Colby Memorial Library in Danville. This year they transplanted arborvitae, continued work on the lilac beds and maintained the perennial beds. **Elizabeth** also presented a program on composting at the library.

Lisa Cote (05) worked two days this summer helping to maintain Celia Thaxter’s Garden on Appledore Island. She also was involved with several gardening projects at New Generation, Inc., a shelter for homeless pregnant women and mothers with young children. Project Green Thumb engaged the children, their mothers and the staff in growing both vegetables and flowers.

Nanette Masi (05) worked with a group of 3rd and 4th graders overseeing the creation of a schoolyard habitat for their elementary school. Using ideas generated by the students, a garden design was developed for a 5000 square foot area by the entrance to the school. The PTA donated \$2200, two teachers co-directed the project. In addition, the community contributed labor, tools, materials and the installation of an electrical conduit for a small fountain. In all 60 shrubs, 2 trees, and 150 perennials were planted. During the summer, volunteer parents and a Girl Scout troop watered and weeded the garden.

Joanne Ward (04S) gave a public presentation in September to about 30 eager gardeners at the Salem Library. Titled “Settling in for a Long Winter’s Nap”, topics included were harvesting, cleaning the beds, composting, what to plan now and fall care for your lawn.

STRAFFORD COUNTY

2006 was a very productive year for Strafford County Master Gardeners. We continued the “Kids Can Grow” program with great success. The program involved UNH Coop. Extension volunteers, the Strafford County 4-H Association, and Strafford County Master Gardeners. Twenty-four children ages 8-14 were involved in making planting beds and planting flowers and vegetables both at home and at the county complex. We discussed soil, seeds, composting, worms, insects, transplanting, garden maintenance, harvesting and nutrition. The newly constructed shed at the county complex was a wonderful addition to the program. The children also learned how to display their produce and flowers for exhibition at the Rochester Fair. Several won ribbons. The program culminated in food prep and cooking session held at the Atlantic Culinary Academy with MG intern **Julienne Guyette ('05)** (also the nutrition chef at the academy) assisting the kids in preparing pizza, salads and pasta dishes. They all left wearing chef’s hats.

Bill Sammis ('00) continued his work at the Monarch School of New England (formally the Child Development Center) with the motto “Unlimited possibilities for students with special needs”. The school serves children with persistent development delays as well as those who are medically fragile. Current enrollment consists of about 30 students from NH and Maine. Horticultural therapy uses a 14’x26’ heated greenhouse, numerous raised and ground level growing beds, natural and artificially classroom tabletop gardens, and a full power indoor garden structure in the school foyer. Children enjoy full gardening experiences as well as the subtle effects of a green environment.

Noreen Gaetjens ('01) continued work at the Madbury Cemetery Memorial Garden. Many shrubs and perennials have been added to the garden, and this fall, an Eagle Scout will be constructing a labyrinth. She also was involved in the Madbury Library preschool story hour, including many garden books especially about sunflowers. They then planted a Big Smile Sunflower garden in front of the library for all to enjoy. Noreen is also coordinating with master gardeners **Barbara Flynn ('98)**, **Gael Grant ('95)** and **Ann Ury ('02)** and the Oyster River High School in Durham to design and construct an outdoor environmental classroom garden and gathering area.

Gael Grant ('95) set up an information table at the newly organized Lee Farmer’s Market and chatted with many community members throughout the summer. Her efforts were highly appreciated by the community and well received.

Hillary Myers ('04) set up an information exhibit at the Lee County Fair in September and talked to many fairgoers about their gardening questions.

Bill Casey ('94) continued the garden project at the Barrington Middle School, which is continually expanding. The children have landscaped around their school, started a stone wall, and have begun to form their garden club.

Eileen Paluszek ('00) and **Judy Dennehy ('02)** continued their involvement with the adult education program in Farmington, conducting a ‘bulb forcing’ class. **Liz LeClair ('03)** worked at the NH Farm Museum maintaining the colonial gardens and worked with children in planting seeds. **Loretta Campbell ('99)** also worked at the Farm Museum with Liz.

Julienne Guyette ('05) intern grew a demonstration garden depicting various grains and crops grown as staples in the American diet. Wheat, corn, rye, oats, barley, soybean and sunflowers were featured as well as lesser known crops such as flax, millet and amaranth.

Carolyn Bassage ('99) organized the Lee Plant Sale, along with the Lee Garden Club. Many Master Gardeners assisted with the sale and manned the information table for the Master Gardener Program.

Many other Strafford County Master Gardeners participated in community projects, the UNH Open Greenhouse tour, local fairs and plant sales, offering education and advice to their communities. Respectfully submitted by Cindy McKenna, secretary.

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Sullivan County has few Master Gardeners compared to other counties, but we have big hearts, strong backs and great hopes for improving and beautifying the local areas we call home. Our members bring beauty, assistance and education to their various communities.

Barbara Burt spearheaded the project for the beautification of the Sullivan County Extension Office on Main Street in Newport. A grant from the NHMGA made this possible. Because of extra work the county voluntarily took on (removing overgrown bushes, painting the building, etc.) the landscape work is only partially completed and additional planting and landscaping will continue in the spring of 2007. Comments on how much the outside appearance has already improved and how much better it represents the work going on inside (housing the forest resources educator, the 4-H program resources, the agricultural educator, etc.) have already been received. **Janice Baker** and **Adele J. Furdyna** also helped on this project.

Joyce Coviello headed the grounds beautification activities in Grantham public areas. **Jan Carroll** improved the butterfly garden at the Grantham Post Office. Like Joyce, she interacted with people, answering questions from those interested in gardening. **Adele J. Furdyna** and **Janice Whitcomb** planted new plants in the Grantham "little common" in the town center. **Jan Carroll** headed the grounds beautification activities in her community of Eastman, Grantham - designing the barrels and gardens and ordering the plants. She educated and supervised the volunteer helpers. **Adele J. Furdyna** oversaw the volunteers and scheduling for the South Cove area, and improved the small perennial bed.

Ellie Goddard directed the many volunteers of the Sunapee Gardens at Sunapee Harbor. She supervised the design and planting of the numerous areas, answered questions and gave instructions to the garden caretakers. **Diana Wyman** worked at the Sunapee Historical Museum to improve the landscaping on the outside of the building, as well as improving the landscaping at the Sunapee United Methodist Church. With **Ellie Goddard** as lead, **Diana Wyman** helped develop a plan for the Sunapee Post Office. The project was approved and begun this year. More work, involving planting of some trees, will continue next year.

Many school projects, involving educational hours, were conducted in 2006. **Joyce Coviello** worked with the Grantham Village School children on designing and caring for their gardens. She showed the students how to identify and mark plants and how to create scarecrows, feeders and other garden decorations. She instructed the parents on how to properly revive the garden in the spring. **Barbara Burt** worked at the Kearsarge Regional High School gardens, improving the garden and perennial bed. **Muffy Gibson** helped parents and students to create and clean up gardens at the school grounds in Meriden and arranged for the county forester to give a presentation on planting and on pruning trees.

Rachael Stoddard worked at the Plainfield school grounds, designing perennial beds, overseeing the building of raised beds and supervising parents and students in their beautification work. **Lauryn Moeller** also worked at the Plainfield school helping the

students with the grounds gardens. **Cheryl Kring Grabe** worked on new gardens and a trail at the Plainfield school and is also landscaping at the local library.

Henry Homeyer handled the vegetable and flower divisions of the Cornish Fair: organizing, supervising, judging and monitoring. **Lauryn Moeller** worked at the fair, manning the vegetable display and answering numerous questions. **Cynthia Wilkie** hosted the Cornish Garden Club Flower Display Room at the fair. She supervised and answered many questions about the flowers on display.

Cynthia Wilkie and Muffy Gibson were at the Cornish Farmers Market answering questions and ran the Kid's Challenge. The children "adopted" and cared for an evergreen seedling, returning it at the end of the season to earn their "Green Thumb" certificate.

Janice Baker, Barbara Burt, Marilyn Hill, Lauryn Moeller and Sandy Odell arranged the garden plantings to showcase the sculpture garden displays at the NH League of Craftsman Fair in Sunapee in August. Some returned for several days to complete the displays and maintain them for the fair.

Cynthia Wilkie worked at the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Site in Cornish, creating floral displays for public viewing. She also assisted at the State Forest Nursery harvesting, sorting, and packing seedlings for distribution. **Cheryl Kring Grabe** trained new gardeners for the herb and dye beds at Fort at Number Four, Charlestown. **Marilyn Hill** worked at a tour guide at the Fells in Newbury, educating the public on its history and beauty, and interacted with the professional staff, providing assistance when needed.

Invasive plants in our communities were on the "hit list". **Adele J. Furdyna** educated her Eastman community on the presence, dangers and control of two invasive plants on NH Invasive Species List – purple loosestrife and phragmites. She developed several brochures for public distribution and prepared and placed signs by these invasive plants, highlighting their presence and danger. She spoke with owners, educating them on the invasive plant on their property and also did two public presentations. In Lebanon, **Muffy Gibson** worked on weeding purple loosestrife from Lot 30.

Two Sullivan County meetings for members to discuss their plans for the coming season and to review their progress were held in May and in August. The "Hot Topics" program was given at our August meeting by Marcy Stanton.

Numerous other projects, individual education as Master Gardeners and ongoing outreach to educate and to beautify our towns were always on our Master Gardeners minds and readily handled as the opportunities presented themselves

Submitted by,

Adele J. Furdyna, Sullivan County Coordinator

