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**MASTER GARDENER
Annual Report**

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MISSION

The mission of UNH Cooperative Extension is to provide New Hampshire citizens with research-based education and information, to enhance their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy.

As representatives of UNHCE, **Master Gardener volunteers** contribute to Extension's ability to provide consumers with up-to-date, reliable information by leading and participating in community educational projects and answering questions from the public at the Education Center.

OUR GOALS

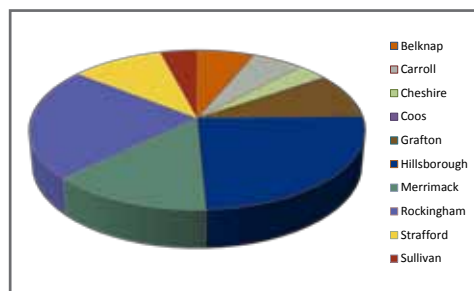
- **PROVIDE DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES** with an emphasis on recruiting Master Gardener's in our North Country Communities
- **CREATE ON-LINE WORKSHOPS** that are accessible to our Education Center volunteers on the days they volunteer
- **CONTINUE TO UPDATE MASTER GARDENER TRAINING** to focus on adult learners
- **INCORPORATE ON-LINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES** that reflect needs identified in the Education Center Business Plan
- **CREATE A STRONG MENTORING PROGRAM** to assist and support our newest volunteers.
- **DEVELOP VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** to keep volunteers engaged from a distance
- **OFFER VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP TRAINING** for those volunteers seeking to take on leadership roles

FAST FACTS

There are...

- **207 Master Gardeners volunteered 7749 hours at the county level**
- **103 Master Gardeners from 5 counties volunteered over 3100 hours staffing the Information Line at the Ed Center**

ACTIVE MASTER GARDENERS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



Dear Master Gardeners,

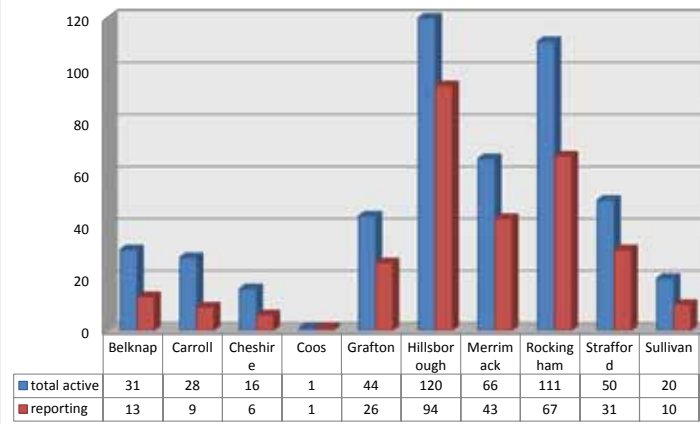
I am particularly proud of the work our Master Gardeners accomplished with the youngest, the oldest, and the most vulnerable of our fellow New Hampshireites. Many Master Gardeners took leadership roles with community gardens and farmers' markets, two areas of local agriculture that have experienced phenomenal growth in recent years. Numerous not-for-profit organizations around the state benefited from Master Gardeners sharing their expertise with them.

So please enjoy our annual report. See what your Master Gardener friends and neighbors have been doing for New Hampshire. Their total volunteer hours in 2012—Education Center and county programs combined—exceeded 10,000, the equivalent of over five full-time employees, but, unlike five employees, New Hampshire Master Gardeners could be in 207 places at once. In every season of the year, New Hampshire's Master Gardeners were busy sharing their knowledge and solving problems on behalf of us all.

Best Regards,

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

ACTIVE MASTER GARDENERS REPORTING



2013 UNH Cooperative Extension
Annual Report Design: Pamela Doherty
Writer/Editor: John Bubar

Acknowledgments:

We would like to thank Strafford County Master Gardener, John Bubar, for offering to write this report. We appreciate his genuine and authentic writing style.

All photos in this report were taken at the State Forest Nursery in Boscawen - 26 Master Gardeners volunteered over 240 hours during the Nursery's annual spring "crunch time".



BELKNAP COUNTY

In 2012, Master Gardeners in Belknap County volunteered over 450 hours to their communities, working with more than 700 county residents.

Susan Dymont (MG 2010) led a Special Project in Sanbornton where she partnered with students from the Sant Bani School to plant a variety of vegetables in the schoolyard garden. Lettuce and garlic from the garden were donated to a local retreat center and a nearby assisted-living home. Later that year she assisted students in planting a prominent traffic island in town during their school-wide Earth Day community outreach program.

Rick Lewis (MG 2008) was joined by several other Master Gardeners at the Laconia Christian School to plan a rock garden and consider plantings for a butterfly garden. At the beginning of the fall term, Rick conducted an on-campus field trip to identify various trees and shrubs. Also in September, he instructed students and adult volunteers in fall planting, soil preparation, mulching, pruning, and thinning. Returning in the spring, he conducted planting-bed cleanup and installed new plantings in tree circles, rock gardens, the butterfly garden, and foundation beds.

On June 1—anchored by Kathleen Kozak's (MG 2004) ninety-five volunteer hours—nine Master Gardeners joined forces to put on the Belknap County Master Gardener Plant Sale. Sally Doten (MG 2001) reported that they opened a half-hour earlier than scheduled as there were many customers already waiting in line—in the rain! This team effort raised over \$2000 to support their annual education efforts.

Throughout the year, Belknap County Master Gardeners also gave presentations to local community groups on Vegetable Gardening Basics and Companion Plantings, worked with patient and prisoner groups in plant and pest education, provided outreach and education at the Belknap County 4H Fair Master Gardener information booth, beautified town public spaces, developed memorial gardens, and worked to inform and advise the public on the invasive plant species currently crowding into New Hampshire.

CARROLL COUNTY

In 2012, 11 Master Gardeners in Carroll County volunteered 342 hours and made over 1000 direct personal contacts with local residents. Susan Poirer (MG 2002) provided educational outreach with her eight essays that appeared in both the Salmon Falls newspapers and the Granite State News, reaching a combined circulation of over 5000 people.

Master Gardener educational presentations to Carroll County groups during the year ranged from Heirloom Plants to Good Bugs/Bad Bugs to Raised Garden Beds to Mount Washington's Alpine Garden to Appledore Island. In addition to these lecture/seminar forums, a wide variety of not-for-profit organizations received many hours of Master Gardener consulting advice and hands-on supervision: Life Ministries Food Pantry Garden, Sherman Farm—Veggie Volunteers, Mother Seaton House, Dinner Bell, Gibson Senior Center, Chatham Historical Society, Remick Museum in Tamworth, 4-H, Granite State College, North Conway Library, Weed Watchers (invasive water-plant patrol), Town of Wolfeboro's Nick Park, Melvin Village Community Church, and the Taylor Community Continuing Care Facility.

Included in Karen Downing's (MG 2011) 47 hours of volunteer time was her work with Wendy Scribner, Carroll County's forester, to plan a wildlife habitat area for the Remick museum where she subsequently planted 100 trees and shrubs. Joan Theve (MG 2004) contributed 45 hours as a consultant to the Melvin Community Church on landscape planning and as a partner with Ralph Lutjen (MG 2004) on a landscape review for the North Conway Library.

Collaboration with local food pantry operations was the most popular venue for Master Gardener community service in Carroll County. Working primarily with the Life Ministries Food Pantry Garden and Sherman Farm's Veggie Volunteers program, seven Master Gardeners volunteered over 140 hours of time in all aspects of vegetable production and distribution. Rhonda Alden (MG 2007) worked 45 hours with Life Ministries to provide advice, research, and instruction in fence installation, irrigation, soil amendment, seed starting, planting, weekly garden maintenance, and harvesting. Susan Poirer (MG 2002), who recorded the distribution of produce from the Pantry Garden, said, "We've delivered hundreds of pounds of tomatoes, cucumbers, summer squash, lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, radishes, beans, carrots, onions, and peppers." She estimated that by September's end over \$2000 of vegetables had been provided. Muriel Hughes (MG 1995), who supervised and collected data for Veggie Volunteers reported, "Often the vegetables (donated) exceed 1000 pounds each week." In 2012, Carroll County Master Gardeners made significant contributions to the Fight Against Hunger in their corner of New Hampshire.

CHESHIRE COUNTY

2012 saw nine Cheshire County Master Gardener volunteers spend 271 hours in service to their communities, interacting with over 500 people in a variety of forums. Supporting community gardens and working in school settings accounted for over 57% of those volunteer hours.

Deirdre Oliver (MG2006) continued to administer the Harrisville Community Garden, a project she has been shepherding since 2009. The garden has grown to include 33 members tending 41 plots. This year a wash well was installed and water is now available at the garden. Carol Jue (MG2012) worked with Extension Agricultural Specialist, Carl Majewski, to plan a demonstration garden at Harper Acres Affordable Housing where a community garden was subsequently established. Carol guided the gardeners in all aspects of vegetable production. Plant sharing and a celebration of successes capped off the fall harvest season. Ann McEntee (MG2002) gave a presentation about vegetable garden site design at Antioch University in conjunction with the school's not-for-profit community gardens project that serves organizations in the Keene area. She then participated in a design charette during which representatives from the four organizations that will receive monies for this project began to design their garden sites.

Patricia MacIssac (MG2010) collaborated with students and faculty at the Jaffrey Grade School to rejuvenate, expand, and maintain school gardens, as well as redesign the school's compost area. With this work concluded, the existing Garden Sprouts Program for Grades 3-5 was expanded to include Grades K-2 and the New Hampshire Science Curriculum Framework and the Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School District integrated the school gardens into the curriculum for children. In the fall, she returned to help the students harvest herbs for use by the school cook, prepare the garden beds for winter, and turn the compost bins. Her efforts helped the children acquire environmental stewardship skills, learn good gardening practices, become familiar with the life cycle of plants, understand the basic needs of plants, and observe the annual cycle of preparation, planting, tending, harvesting, and preparation again.

Educational outreach by Cheshire County Master Gardeners was not limited to the schoolroom. Ann McEntee, Deirdre Oliver, and Susan Scott (MG2000) combined for 69 hours of presentations, demonstrations, and consulting in such diverse venues as town libraries, the Cathedral of the Pines, the Nature Conservancy, and the Victorian Children's Garden.

Sustainability through education and skill building for all ages was a major theme among our Master Gardeners in Cheshire County in 2012 as they volunteered in service to their state and their communities.

COÖS COUNTY

One Master Gardener in Coös County, Deborah Joyce (MG 2000), volunteered 51 hours to work with 22 4-H members to plan, prepare and maintain three gardens along Route 110 between Groveton and Stark, NH. She and her team performed the initial site preparation, and then she led them through the beautification grant process with the local 4-H council. With the grant in hand, Deborah conducted garden design and plant selection meetings, discussed potential animal problems, oversaw trips to the local greenhouses to talk to horticulturists, and supervised the planting process. “At the site,” she reported, “The kids can be heard discussing what they have learned and how best to arrange the plants. After preparing them well, it is gratifying to take a backseat and listen to their execution of the planting scheme.”

In summing up her project results, Deborah described an experience similar to those shared by other Master Gardeners in New Hampshire:

“My 4-Hers look forward to this time to learn more about planting a roadside flower garden. Passers-by wave and beep their horns to show appreciation for the effort of the youth group. It’s a win-win situation. My club says thank you to the community that supports them and citizens see youth doing a good deed.”

GRAFTON COUNTY

Grafton County’s Master Gardeners engaged with over 3600 fellow New Hampshireites in 2012, contributing 1,213 volunteer hours in service to their communities. Consulting primarily in their schools, towns, and senior centers, they also staffed information booths and worked closely with local farmers’ markets. Four Master Gardeners received funding for Special Projects providing education and hands-on experience to gardeners of all ages.

Catherine DeLage (MG 2007) continued her Special Project with the Canaan Elementary School, where for the last two years she has guided the closing of overgrown gardens and the reclaiming of others. Particular emphasis has been put on the perennial beds at the school’s front entrance: soil preparation, fertilization, plant selection and planting, deadheading , and

mulching. Varieties of Asclepius and Lilacs have been planted to attract butterflies and demonstrate diversity within plant families. A rain barrel was purchased with a portion of her project funding and used to solve a water runoff problem from the school roof, as well as extending the awareness of resource recovery that began with their use of a tumbler composter.

Catherine also spent many hours preparing for her “Ag in the Classroom” presentations at the North Haverhill Elementary and Middle schools. She gathered several plants to show the middle-school students the differences between bulbs and roots and discussed bulb planting and storage techniques in preparation for the students’ fall planting initiative. At the elementary school she spoke about the nutrition needs of plants, the process and value of composting, and the plants that attract beneficial insects. Catherine handed out small packets of wildflower seeds to each student and encouraged them to plant them at home or their bus stop or any appropriate familiar place.

In addition to several hours spent educating community members on up-to-date gardening techniques, Carol White (MG 2006) used a Special Project grant to work with parents and students at the Bristol Elementary School. As she explained in her grant request:

“The school has six sturdy raised beds—one for each class. Each class has chosen a particular interest such as native plants, butterflies and insects, and vegetables. To get results before school ends, many plants will be purchased as sets. Another area will be tilled, fertilized with donated manure, and planted with pumpkin seeds.”

This after-school project has received recognition in the local papers and pictures of the gardens and students are displayed in the school.

As Carol reported, “The kids loved it, the parents were enthused, and the teachers and aides were full of questions.”

A celebration of a successful pumpkin harvest was being planned.

The Plymouth Regional Senior Center residents benefited from the Special Project grant awarded to Debbie Blackey (MG 2005) for the purchase of growing media and annuals. Debbie educated the seniors in the planting and subsequent care of the flowers that were transplanted into small raised beds along the entryway to the Senior Center that is located across the street from the Pemigewasset River. The planters are part of the river’s beautification plan.

A diverse team of Master Gardeners spent many hours working at the Grafton County Complex gardens and Grafton County Nursing Home. Jane O’Donnell (MG 2000) spent time with residents to make container planters. In addition to working in Boscawen at the NH Forestry State Nursery, Ken Nankervis (MG 2012) worked on the nursing home’s ongoing vegetation

project. Joan Pushee (MG 1999) maintained several gardens at the complex, spread mulch, and refurbished the courthouse oval, as well as gardened with homeless kids at the Whole Village shelter and staffed an information booth at the Plymouth Farmers' Market. Tabitha Coykendall (MG 2005) worked on the maps for each garden at the complex. Another Boscawen volunteer, Shirley Donovan (MG 2011) volunteered to work in the Grafton County Gardens weeding and mulching. Like Joan, she also worked at Whole Village and shared her knowledge at the Plymouth Farmers' Market information booth. Dick Flanders (MG 2001) rejuvenated the flowerbed in front of the courthouse as part of the complex's sustainable gardening plan. Dick was another MG to staff the Farmer's Market booth. On loan to Pennsylvania for most of 2012, Mary Savage (MG 2006) still found time to prepare garden beds at the complex for spring plantings and to return in October to clean up the beds and ready them for winter; she also took a morning to work the information booth. Roger Merrill (MG 2005) worked with the activities director at the County Home to involve the residents in a container gardening project that would flourish in their limited space. Quoting Roger, "...smiles on the faces of our senior citizens as they sowed their seeds, watched and nurtured the growth of the seedlings, and admired the beauty of their effort..... priceless."

Grafton County's most junior citizens also benefited from Master Gardener programs. Marilyn Fuller (MG 1996) presented a workshop titled "From the Ground Up" to students from around the county during the annual Conservation Field Day at the North Haverhill Fair Grounds. Teambuilding was the key to Marcia Anderson's (MG 2006) work at Camp Berea in Hebron where she and a "phenomenal team of dedicated volunteers" oversaw the gardens from design to cleanup. Nancy Archibald (MG 2004), another member of the Boscawen crew, provided gardening tips, ideas, projects, and resources for the childcare providers at the Upper Valley Children's Center in Lebanon. In Lyme, Maureen Byrne (MG 2010) planted with the students at the local Vacation Bible School and prepared an after-school autumn bulb-planting project. Melanie Kerr (MG 2005) gave students at the Mountain View Middle School in Goffstown a hands-on experience in NH tree identification and introduced them to the Asian Long Horned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer. In addition to staffing MG booths at farmers' markets in Plymouth, Hebron, and Bristol and volunteering at Boscawen, Judith Kraemer (MG 1999) worked with middle-schoolers and their teachers on planting and plant identification. Erika Krauss Cadreact (MG 2009) and Francis Knoernschild (MG 2009) collaborated on a summer curriculum for kids to complement the adult gardening program that was presented at the Grafton County Complex Gazebo. They helped to educate children on topics relating to agriculture and backyard gardening. Shirley Yorks (MG 1998)—she's another Boscawen teammate—worked at the Bristol Elementary School along with Carol White (see Special Project report above). Shirley echoed the project's success, "We had planned to let the children each take half the classes, but they insisted on taking ALL the classes. With the help from the teachers' aides, we were able to keep all the children

occupied and involved in every class." Dick Flanders, in addition to all his volunteer work outlined above, taught pre-schoolers to plant pumpkins in June and harvest them in September. "Teaching pre-schoolers gardening basics is a real blast," Dick reported, "And much appreciated by these budding future gardeners."

Several Master Gardeners volunteered their time and expertise to organizations and municipalities throughout Grafton County and New Hampshire. Margaret Connors (MG XXXX) designed and built a garden for the Franconia Post Office, maintaining it through the summer and fall. She also helped to design new gardens in front of the Sugar Hill Town Hall and continued her ongoing design and maintenance of the garden at the Tri-Town Transfer Station in Franconia. Helen Downing (MG 2003) opened her home in Wentworth for three weeks in July and gave garden tours of her perennial beds, kitchen garden, ornamental grasses, and hoop house garden for tomatoes and peppers. Marsha Downs (MG 2001) also worked from her home answering queries from past readers of her garden column and educating them and others on invasive plants and environmentally safe lawn and garden products. She also does landscaping maintenance work in Warren. Betsy Drinkwater (MG 2009), yet another Boscawen volunteer, volunteered at the Zimmerman Garden in Manchester and the Shaker Garden in Enfield. Leslie Hoyt (MG 2010) constructed a stone planter around the Thornton Public Library sign, then planted bulbs and perennials to beautify the site. She also used plantings to provide color to highlight a new entrance sign for the Town of Thornton and constructed another raised stone planter for the Thornton Police Station, installing bulbs and perennials there as well. Leslie is another team member at the State Forest Nursery in Boscawen, volunteering three days in March to help the field crew lift seedlings early due to warm temperatures. Eleanor Morrison (MG 2005) partnered with an Eagle Scout candidate on a landscaping project and attended his Eagle Scout court in May

The Eco-Learning Garden

Robert Richer's (MG 2008) Special Project grant supported the Eco-Learning Gardens' initiative in Plymouth. A two-wheeled barrow, tools, row covers, steel posts, plants, and a laminated sign were purchased for the 2,800 square foot garden that sits within the Whole Village complex behind the Bridge House shelter. This site is used to teach residents and pre-schoolers how to plant and tend a garden. A compost demonstration area and season-extension section were added this year to further augment the educational opportunities for both residents and the wider community. Robert speaks eloquently of this community-based effort:

"The Eco-Learning Gardens project is five gardens that are cared by an enthusiastic group. This collaborative is supported by Whole Village (United Way), Plymouth State University, Plymouth Center, and Plymouth Elementary School. Part of the group are parents interested in having their children learn and enjoy where nourishing food comes from."

Robert also volunteers at Vegetables for Plymouth Elementary, Meals for Many Food Bank, the Grafton County complex project, and the spring plant sale at the Grafton County Conservation District.

as the master Gardener supervisor. She worked across county lines helping with the Belknap County Master Gardener plant sale and attended several of their meetings and assisting with interviewing MG candidates. Her presentation to the New Hampton Garden Club on companion plantings was an unqualified success. Bonnie Miller (MG 2008) spent over thirty hours staffing the information booth at the Campton Farmers' Market answering the questions of over eight-five customers. Dawn Lemieux (MG 2010) was busy preparing printed material for the edible garden project at the Newfound Audubon Center in Hebron. Illustrations of plants, brochures, and signage were readied for the garden's launch in the spring. Kareen Hamilton (MG 1993) added some new annuals and perennials to the Lincoln Library gardens and labeled them with their common and scientific names. Then she fed, mulched, pruned, weeded, groomed, and watered them, cleaning up the beds in the fall. As she and the librarians made nametags for the plants, Kareen was able to answer their questions about garden design and increase their plant awareness.

Grafton County Master Gardeners were active in multiple venues on behalf of their county and their state. Their enthusiasm created enthusiasm in others and brought smiles to the faces of young and old alike. Their combined educational effort expanded the knowledge base of New Hampshire citizens and continues to have a multiplier effect as good practices are passed on from one person to another.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

The thirty-nine Hillsborough County Master Gardeners (MGs) recorded over 7500 contacts with fellow New Hampshire citizens, contributing 1,715 hours to a wide variety of organizations. Several county MGs played important roles in the behind-the-scenes administrative work so necessary for the smooth operation of MG activities throughout the year. As in other counties, there was considerable educational outreach, both in traditional school settings, as well as in churches, municipalities, private non-profits, and nursing homes. Also woven through their individual annual activity reports were numerous examples of MG involvement in feeding New Hampshire's hungry.

Hillsborough County Special Projects
Glady's Garden is an inter-generational project led by Kelly Merrifield (MG 1995) at the Villa Augustina School in Goffstown. The garden is dedicated to the memory and charitable spirit of the school's founder, Claudine (Glady) Thevenet. Students from pre-k through eighth grade grow flowers in raised beds at the school and then deliver them to a nearby nursing home accompanied by flower fact sheets they have prepared. The funding was for child-sized shovels, seed starting supplies, a dedication sign, posts and fencing, annual sets, and bulbs. Beyond her special project work, Kelly also consulted on the design of a gazebo garden for Mont Vernon and continued her development of the Mont Vernon Fire Station Garden.

Susan Kroel (MG 2003) used her project funding to purchase plants to support the creation of a new Peace Garden bed at the 4-H Children's Teaching Garden at the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn. The Teaching Garden is a well-established, highly visible, highly used educational garden founded in 2004. The Peace Garden reflects different types of foods, a Twig house, and a Peace Pole—all recognizing peace related concerns of alleviating hunger, improving nutrition, promoting safety, and honoring cultural differences. Susan partnered with a volunteer team from the Stonyfield Corporation in the project's design. In addition to her Special Project work, Susan prepared a grant request to the NH State Council on the Arts for a Quilt Garden and participated with the Teaching Garden's Artist-in-Residence in collaborating with the children to plan and plant a Quilt Garden. As to the Teaching Garden's bounty, Susan reports, "Produce was donated to the NH Food Bank."

Margaret Hagan, Hillsborough County Agricultural Specialist, was granted funding for soil tests, amendments, and vegetable sets in sponsoring a request for gardening help by the newly-formed State Women's Prison Garden Club in Goffstown. Ann Krantz (MG) visited the prison to consult on the initial planning for the use of ten raised beds (8' by 20'), and then returned every two weeks thereafter to meet with the participants in one-hour work sessions.

Since 2008, several MGs have been volunteering at the Wilton Community Garden (WCG) at Carnival Hill in Wilton. WCG is an educational venue for schools, scouts, and other organizations to learn about food production. Sierra Brooks (MG 2007) requested funding to develop a plot within the garden dedicated to growing organic vegetables and herbs for families with limited income. Her project not only augmented the educational mission of the garden, but also supported the fight against hunger in New Hampshire. The funds went for garden equipment, salt marsh hay mulch, soil amendments, plants, and wood chips for pathways. In September she hosted a garden tour for a Milford group who were contemplating the start-up of a community garden. The fall harvest was split between

a local Food Pantry and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Milford.

The four initiatives summarized above were well known to Martha Coutts-Eisenberg (MG 2000), the New Hampshire Master Gardeners Association's (NHMGA) 2012 Board Chair for Special Project funding. Assisted by Christy Belvin (MG 2000), who prepared a matrix of 2012 applications in advance of their review and recommendations, Martha oversaw the funding of all 17 Special Projects totaling \$7,165. She divided the rest of her 240 hours of 2012 volunteer time between assisting others with a nursing home garden, planning, potting and organizing for plant sales in Amherst and Franconia, speaking at the NHMGA 2012 Symposium on Garden Design, and presenting a talk on Small Space Gardening to the Amherst Garden Club.

Another MG whose management skills were drawn upon in 2012 was John Herper (MG 2004), who devoted most of his 219 volunteer hours to developing the program for the NHMGA's Welcome Spring 2012 Symposium. John collaborated with his teammates on the board in selecting the theme for the symposium, determining the threads for the workshops, vetting potential speakers, and putting those speakers, subsequently selected, under contract. Reporting to the NHMGA board on a monthly basis, or more frequently as needed, he was a center of communications for a program greatly lauded in the attendee evaluations. With all these duties calling, John still took time to represent the Master Gardener program at the Bedford Garden Club Plant sale and the Bedford Garden Tour where he provided information on lawns, gardens, vegetables, garden chemicals, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

In addition to writing the NHMGA Annual Report, Kathy Winkowski (MG 2007) was involved on a monthly basis in the organization's fundraising efforts, intra-board communications, and in the over-all development of the Welcome Spring 2012 Symposium, to include organizing materials for the event, writing speaker introductions, and the kick-off welcome speech. Kathy reported the "...attendees very satisfied with the educational presentations, the speakers, and all other aspects of the event. Newspaper publicity helped generate many first-timers to the event—potential for some to join the Master Gardener program."

Fundraising is always important for any organization. Mary Salmon (MG 2004) volunteered 95 hours in preparing for the NHMGA Silent Auction. A "best auction ever" event this year, the funds raised will that support NHMGA's Special Projects throughout New Hampshire.

Janet Woodbury (MG 2001), NHMGA Board Secretary, along with her duties of preparing and distributing monthly minutes, also acted as registrar for the symposium. Her summary: "Part of a great team putting on a great event."

Good boards don't rest. In the midst of a very successful year for

the NHMGA, Kathy succinctly described the agenda at the board's September meeting: "Moving forward with the business of the NHMGA, including the Welcome Spring 2013 Symposium."

The Master Gardener course evolves every year as new research is presented and new challenges are discovered. Mary Moore (MG 2011) spent 60 hours editing and revising the Master Gardener Manual, working closely with Marcy Stanton, Master Gardener Coordinator.

Paula Hartnett (MG 2007) helped with Continuing Education workshops as well as the Annual Symposium and staffed the UNHCE/MG Booth at the Farm/Forest conference in February.

Hillsborough Master Gardeners also worked to advance the mission of the Cooperative Extension and the NH State Forest Nursery.

Spring is the busy season and this year was no different with several Hillsborough MGs answering the call for help: Christy Belvin (MG 2000), Geoffrey Blackett (MG 2009), Doris Burns (MG 2006), Bonnie Ensinger (MG 2008), June Harris (MG 2009), Jeanne-Marie Maher (MG 2012), and Joan Wilson (MG 2007).

From Christy's Annual Activity Report:

"The State Nursery has a seasonal need every spring for volunteer help in the harvesting and packing of bare root trees that it sells. The Nursery has limited funding, and MG assistance is important in meeting the time sensitive harvesting and shipping schedule."

Educational outreach took many forms, as Hillsborough MGs were active in a variety of organizations:

Virgie Beacom (MG 1998) collaborated with Annette Handy, Executive Director of The Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, and, with Diana Anderson (MG 2010) and Sulane Blackford (MG 2012), began to renovate the entry garden to the farm as a demonstration of an "attractive...minimal maintenance" design. Judith Copeland (MG 2010) lent her expertise to the proper maintenance of the civic plantings at the Hancock Post Office and Town Common.

Cheryl Cravino (MG 2008) consulted on the design of a butterfly garden in Hudson's Benson's Park.

Sara Dowse (MG 1993) instructed a volunteer team at the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock and Coontocook Valley High School in Peterborough on proper gardening techniques as they maintained public areas and gardens that would otherwise receive little care.

Jan Litvin (MG 2000) planted and maintained the Stark Street Crossing Park on Commercial Street in Manchester across the street from UNH Manchester. This area is adjacent to student parking and her efforts have made the park both more visually

interesting and safer.

George Malette (MG 2006) served his community as the Vice chair of the Weare Agricultural Committee and on the Board of Directors of the local Farmers' Market. He also presented a workshop on Edible Landscaping to the Concord Garden Club. George said the workshop drew an "overcapacity crowd" and "great questions".

Madeline Perron (MG 1993) spent 84 hours with the residents and staff of the Hillsborough County Nursing Home in Goffstown where she nurtured the Elders On The Grow horticultural therapy program. Madeline says in her annual activity report, "Residents feel a sense of well being as they give to the community by donating our seedlings to the 4H gardens. The produce then goes on to the food bank to feed the needy."

Ann Krantz's (MG 1997) column in the Amherst Garden Club newsletter combined her writing skills with her gardening expertise. Writing on such diverse topics as Pruning Overgrown Foundation Plants to Gardening Downsizing to Stink Bugs, Ann cited university websites as readily available resources for curious gardeners to use for their own research purposes.

Marcy Stanton's (MG 2002) three-part workshop on growing your own food inspired several people in the Milford area to grow vegetables from seed, make their own raised beds, and use IPM to manage their crops for pest damage. Particular interest was shown in using row covers for pest management and Marcy received several reports of the successful use of this technique.

Jacqui Pyzocha (MG 2004) is part of a volunteer team that patrols Gregg Lake in Antrim for invasive species. Jacqui notes that the lake is "still free from invasive species" although, "some things were sent out to the NH Department of Environmental Services this year for further examination."

June Harris (MG 2009) gave a two-part presentation to the Nashua Head Start program that focused on the growing cycle and how the nutritional needs of plants are much like the nutritional needs of people. The children then planted several types of seeds and nurtured them in a grow chamber June had constructed until, as June reports, "They could eat what they grew."

Working with older kids at the 4-H Teaching Garden in Auburn, Tracy Morley (MG 2011) gave lessons on plant science, gardening, and nutrition through hands-on activities. Their results were a "bountiful garden with over 2000 pounds of fresh vegetables and herbs donated to the NH Food Bank."

Anne-Marie Southwell (MG 2007) consulted with the Peter Woodbury School Garden Club in Bedford on the planting and maintenance of 28 raised beds. Care and maintenance instructions were incorporated into binder for use by volunteer families during the summer. There was significant teacher /classroom involvement

in this project and a team of teachers were invited to present at the American Horticultural Society's Youth and Children Gardening Symposium in July.

Colette Lucas (MG 2009) brought her MG skills to her church's Garden Tithe program, an annual short-term stewardship and outreach event designed to supplement local food needs. From July through September, approximately a dozen families in the Monadnock area donated at least 10% of their weekly harvest, to be collected at the Monadnock Congregational Church on Sunday, and delivered to the Peterborough Food Pantry on Monday morning. For Colette this project "provided research and consultation services for garden problems (mostly pest issues), a vacation watering and picking service, and composting for the pantry as needed." Over 235 pounds of fresh produce and herbs were donated to help their local food pantry serve 2,435 people in the July-September time frame. Success breeds success, and Colette reports, "As a church we are examining ways to increase our efforts as the need remains extreme."

Addressing the needs of the many and varied organizations in their county and state, Hillsborough Master Gardeners brought their unique skill sets to bear in service to their mission of extending knowledge and solving problems at the local and state level. Their annual activity reports document an engagement with multiple communities: the very young as well the elderly, understaffed state and local agencies, non-profits that needed their consulting expertise, each other as they trained the trainers, the citizens of New Hampshire through the UNHCE Info Line, and those in their communities who struggle to put food on the table.

MERRIMACK COUNTY

Twenty-four of Merrimack County's Master Gardeners were particularly busy with educational outreach, not only with formal presentations and workshops, but in lending their expertise to beautify their communities, consult on community vegetable gardens, collaborate with local schools and learning centers to integrate gardening into the their curriculums, serve on the Info Line at the Education Center, and support the Master Gardener program through board work.

Merrimack County Special Projects

MDonna Miller, (MG 2010), championed a multi-year plan to create a safer pathway from the classroom building to the play area for preschool children at the Emerson School in Concord. The path had become compacted from years of foot traffic and raised tree roots represented a trip hazard for the children. Her permaculture design creates an 8' by 75' wood

chip pathway surrounded by raised beds. The first raised bed constructed served to protect the path from a neighboring stream and was planted with native shade trees. The remaining beds have been laid out with manure and cardboard. Donna educated the staff, children, and volunteer parents on sheet composting, and the children bring out their compost and dump it in the beds during recess. Composting continued through the summer and fall cleanup day contributed leaves to the mix. Donna estimated that it would be two-to-three year project. In addition to this effort, Donna presented talks on Seed Starting to the Concord City Organic Gardeners, Companion Planting to the Ladies Benevolent Society in Canterbury, and Soil Improvement at Garlic Day in Canterbury as well as assisted the Garden Club at Canterbury Elementary School with the development of a butterfly garden—she educated the students on both nectar and larval plants to attract different species—and coordinated a plant swap, held at the Canterbury Gazebo, where she served as a Master Gardener resource, answering questions, identifying plants, and offering plant ideas to match specific landscapes.

Annie Lund (MG 2006) initiated a three-phase project at the Paul Smith School in Franklin:

1. A research butterfly garden
2. A learning gardening vegetable/annual area
3. A vegetable production garden that will be used in a summer youth activity program with food grown being donated to the area soup kitchens.

Funding was provided for compost for Phase 1. Two hundred and seventy-five students and volunteers (teachers, aides, PTO parents, and other MGs) prepared an area in the school courtyard for planting, removing large, sharp rocks and replacing them with small stones, removing grass and existing plants, amending the soil, creating pathways, and creating berms for planting. Annie reported, “More than 12 classrooms planted plants to attract butterflies...with the assistance of Master Gardener and PTO volunteers. Students and teachers released Monarch butterflies into the area. Each of over 240 students planted at least one perennial, shrub, and/or bulbs in the garden area.” Phase 1 complete!

Educational outreach occurred in many venues in Merrimack County:

In May and June, David Kiley (MG 2008) and Sheri Warburton (MG 2008) joined the gardeners at the Concord Community Gardens to answer any questions they had as their gardening season kicked off.

Betsy Lynch (MG 2011), Linda Maloof (MG 1999), and Tina Larochelle (MG 1993) have been involved with the Boscawen Community Garden since its inception. Betsy said, “The soil was tested by the Cooperative Extension and results were followed according to plan. A pot luck and garden tour happened mid-season.” Linda met with the Boscawen Agriculture Committee on future plans for the community garden, as well future projects

for the various town facility grounds where she provides spring clean-up, pruning, and planting. She describes that meeting as full of “positive input” and reports her meetings with the community garden committee having “insightful interactions” during a “successful and exciting gardening season”. Tina is a member of the Boscawen Agricultural Committee and was integral to planning for the community garden, and then in her role as a MG she worked with over fifty families to help them learn more about producing their own food. She notes “over \$200 worth of food went out from the community garden to needy families.” Tina is very familiar with local food programs as she delivered more than 1400 pounds of food to the McKenna House homeless shelter in Concord via the Plant a Row for the Hungry program; most of this fresh produce was collected at the Concord Farmers’ Market.

Kenneth Koerber (MG 2006) supported the 4-H teaching garden at the Massabesic Audubon Center with garden planning, teaching summer programs, and working with volunteers to maintain the garden. He also helped students at the Dunbarton Elementary School to plan, sheet mulch, and plant a raised-bed garden while passing on to the students the fundamentals of soil structure and seed planting.

Joyce Lemay (MG 2002) worked side-by-side with children at the Beaver Meadow School in Concord to plant and maintain a butterfly garden. She also volunteered at the Shaker Village in Canterbury where she assisted in garden planting and maintenance, as well as answering visitors’ questions about the Village’s historic plantings.

Marilyn Hill (MG 2005) presented a two-hour workshop at the Fells in Newbury on Garden Design as Art, reporting that the Fells’ has expanded educational outreach this year. She also gave a presentation at the Knowlton House in Sunapee to the New London Garden Club, highlighting the MG program and the benefits it provides the community. Marilyn serves as the head of the Knowlton House Landscape Committee, organizing volunteers throughout the summer and fall and describes Knowlton House as “a vital link to the Sunapee community as an educational venue and a place to learn about protecting the lake and the watershed.” In a unique educational opportunity, Mary Kerwin (MG 2008) consulted with Merrimack County Obtain to pick-up, deliver, and explain the proper cultivation of approximately 500 donated plants to refugees who gathered at Sycamore Field in Concord. Volunteering with Merrimack County Assist, she was able to pass along her expertise in safe food preservation as she helped families with harvesting, freezing, and canning fresh produce.

Joyce Kimble (MG 2004) was a member of the MG Speaker’s Bureau and presented talks on Container Gardening to the Centennial Senior Group, Container Gardening with Edibles at the Bow Baker Free Library, and Garden Therapy at the White Rock Senior Living Center. She also lent a hand in planting the Garden of Hope in Concord in preparation for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk held in October. The majority of

Joyce's volunteer time, however, was spent behind the scenes in service to her fellow Master Gardeners serving as the Fundraising and Merchandise Chair on the NHMGA Board. The results of her work on the Board act as a multiplier effect as monies raised support numerous MG projects throughout New Hampshire. Theresa Paige (MG 2006) was also a member of the MG Speaker's Bureau and gave a talk on Container Gardening, along with a hands-on demonstration, for the Concord Hospital Wellness Center. The 21 seniors who attended were interested in both healthier eating as well as reducing their food costs. Theresa also participated in a panel discussion on composting and soil preparation at the Bow Baker Free Library where she was able to focus her contributions on soil testing, soil composition, fertilizing, and erosion control. During her Container Gardening presentation at the Epsom Public Library she took several questions on soil mixes, watering, fertilizing, and container sizes from the new gardeners. In an example of gardeners helping gardeners, Theresa reported, "It was great when the other attendees helped one new gardener figure out how to set up a few containers on a second floor deck in a way that would not flood her neighbor's deck below."

Beverly Geyer (MG 2010) gave talks on gardening to a citizen group at the Boscawen town office and the Pembroke Women's Club. In the spring she joined other Master Gardeners at the State Nursery to divide seedlings and prepare them for sale. Also working at the State Nursery identifying trees and bundling them for customers was Geri Holdsworth (MG 2011). Other volunteer activity found Geri at the Shaker Village in Canterbury where she weeded and pruned their herb garden, preparing flower boxes at the Cathedral in the Pines during the UNHCE Volunteer Day, and staffing the phones at the Educational Center's Info Line.

Mary Paveglia (MG 2006) not only helped at the State Nursery during their crunch time in April sorting, counting and bagging trees, but she came back to the Nursery in August for three days to weed tree and shrub beds.

Richard Wright (MG 2006) gave a presentation at the Newbury Old Home Days on Landscaping at the Water's Edge, continued to be involved in the Newbury community garden projects (layout and cleanup), and engineered the replanting of twenty full sized Hostas that had been disrupted during the construction of the new veterans' memorial.

Jim Ramanek (MG 2001) trained 35 aspiring gardeners in Concord with his presentation on Organic Gardening.

Edith Posselt (MG 2011) cleaned up gardens at the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Zimmerman House in Manchester at the Currier Museum and moved and replanted gardens for the elementary school in Franklin. She also attended training at the Merrimack County Extension office in preparation to give public presentations on a variety of gardening topics.

Doris Nuttleman (MG 2004) used her knowledge of flowers and

colors to continually arrange, refresh and water multiple floral displays at the New London Hospital, providing enjoyment, as well as sparking the imagination of those who wished to do the same elsewhere in their lives.

Jennifer Allen (MG 1999) provided pruning and general garden maintenance for a Concord non-profit garden, choosing a busy street where she could interact with people and so pass on her gardening techniques in addition to plant information.

Darlene Chamberlain (MG 2009) enhanced the safety, as well as the beautification, of the Gander Brook Christian Camp by trimming and pruning trees and shrubs and raking the softball field.

And who shall train the trainers?

Nancy Scholesser (MG 1993) has worked behind the scenes for many years as a member of the Joint Continuing Education Committee that plans and coordinates continuing education events and the annual recognition conference for volunteers (members include UNHCE staff, MGs, and Natural Resource Stewards). Nancy acts as the committee's moderator, keeping meetings on track and taking on the responsibility to plan and coordinate specific events throughout the year. Her collaboration with her committee teammates has been, and continues to be, critical to providing New Hampshire with Master Gardeners who are current and knowledgeable and inspired to share that knowledge with the public.

Twenty-four Merrimack County Master Gardeners, 720 volunteer hours, 2,230 contacts with the public: A review of their collective service in 2012 exemplifies the mission of the Master Gardener Program—Extending Knowledge and Solving Problems.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Forty-seven strong, Rockingham County hosted the largest contingent of Master Gardeners reporting on projects in the state. Volunteering over 1800 hours, they engaged with more than 9900 people in the many diverse settings available in the seacoast. They also joined with MGs from other counties to partner on specific projects, nurtured organizations that supported fellow MGs, and offered their time and expertise to the NH State Forest Nursery in Boscawen and the UNHCE Education Center Call Center.

Rockingham County: Five Special Projects were funded
Ginny Shannon (MG 2003) responded to a request

from the North Hampton Agricultural Commission to create a demonstration herb garden at the North Hampton Community Garden. The NHMGA funded her for the purchase of potting soil, herbs and seeds, and fences and posts to keep out wildlife. Ginny designed the garden and with the help of two other MGs fenced, edged, and planted a 12 x 40 double plot. As the purpose was to educate others on gardening practices with herbs, Ginny and her team scheduled two educational meetings with local gardeners and have been asked to return to discuss other garden topics and address specific questions. Ginny also participated in a MG day at the Nature Conservancy, demonstrating traditional uses of herbs and identifying native herbs.

Linda Schepps Bierber (MG 2011) received funds to begin a Backyard Wildlife Garden, a multi-year project on a 1.6-acre parcel along the Squamscott River and Great Bay on Route 108 adjacent to Chapman's Landing in Stratham. The garden will be developed to highlight the removal of invasives, use of native plants, creation of "No Mow" lawns, and means to attract wildlife. Linda partnered with the Timberland Corporation, and the tools purchased with NHMGA grant money were used on one of the company's community workdays. Her role, as she described it, was "to purchase tools and equipment, be on site to instruct volunteers on how to use the weed wrench (for invasive plant removal), photo journal the progress of each phase, fund raiser, recruiting volunteers, and writing an article for Great Bay Matters quarterly magazine." Discovering that she enjoyed fundraising, Linda said, "I will continue to devote my time to this end."

Linda Morse (MG 2012) worked with the Timberland High School Wellness Committee in Plaistow to prepare a raised-bed community garden in the high school's courtyard. Planting and maintaining the gardens will start as an after-school club effort with the intention that the life skills of growing and harvesting food will ultimately be integrated into the curriculum. The funds received were spent on tools, compost, a compost bin, and loam. Linda met with school staff to plan the construction of the garden, secure other sources of funding, and engage the students in providing some of the needed supplies. The tag line for the project: Where Young Minds Grow.

Judy Siemonsma (MG 2004) has been part of a team of MGs and Candia Garden Club members who have been reclaiming the Candia Town Hall gardens for the past five years. The gardens are the center for much of the town foot traffic and all plants, shrubs, and trees have been labeled for educational purposes. This year Judy's grant request was funded for the purchase of a watering system and five yards of bark mulch in order to help preserve those plantings. She also worked at the Moore Public School garden that is used during the school year for teaching and was one of the MGs who staffed the MG booth at the annual NH Farm and Forest Exposition. In addition to her hands-on gardening time, Judy spent many, many hours traveling all over the state supporting her fellow Master Gardeners as the treasurer of the NHMGA, coordinator of the Spring Symposium, and assistant to

the Silent Auction, the association's biggest fundraiser. Operating behind-the-scenes with the NHMGA, meeting the public in a MG information booth, getting dirty in the community gardens: Judy devoted over 200 hours to her community, her state, and her colleagues.

Another partnership project between MGs and the Candia Garden Club has been the restoration of the Butterfly Garden at the Henry W. Moore School. Linda Thomas (MG 2004) requested and received funding for a simple and effective watering system and four yards of bark mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Linda worked with the first and second graders and their teachers at the school's Agriculture Day with a presentation on butterflies and how to attract them. In another educational outreach program, she delivered a Power Point presentation to the Candia Agricultural Committee on the characteristics of the five types of bulbs, the proper way and when to plant bulbs, overwintering tender bulbs, and dividing bulbs. All the attendees received a copy of her presentation. Like so many MGs, Linda also volunteered for prep and set-up duties at the Welcome Spring Symposium and met throughout the year to plan and support county MG activities.

Rockingham MGs made themselves available to the public in many forums. Several MGs crafted partnerships with other organizations to support once a year events, others spread their volunteer time among many different activities. The common themes were education, problem solving, and supporting MG efforts that have a statewide reach.

Nell Griffin (MG 2009) collaborated with MG Carol Doering in Strafford County to develop and present a presentation on Low Impact Lawn Care, but the bulk of her 200 hours of volunteer time was spent in the planning and preparation for the Rockingham Master Gardeners' annual Spring Garden Fair and Native Plant Sale which she co-coordinated with MG Gale Rosenberger. The event received extensive coverage in the seacoast as Nell and Gale pitched the program below to several media outlets: Receive expert advice and resources from UNH Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners. This event is rain or shine and includes:

- Gardening for the Birds, Butterflies and Bees
- Herb Heaven
- Oyster Restoration in Great Bay
- Demonstration of Creative Spaces for Growing Vegetables
- Coexisting with Critters in Your Gardens
- Soil PH Testing (bring a sample to test!)
- Maintaining Your Lawn Organically
- Perennials on Parade: Natives, Newbies & 'Nockouts
- Invasives to Natives: Making the Transition

Partnering with the Southern NH Nature Conservancy in Newmarket where the event was held, Nell reported a "very successful, education centered 'fair' involving 12 MGs, Ron Christie (Rockingham County's Master Gardener Coordinator), and five Nature Conservancy staff."

Marilyn Wallingford (MG 1996) said, “Folks have gotten to know me over the years with my Master Gardener badge on while I’m out and about.” And she was “out and about” a lot in 2012. Marilyn handled gardening Q&As for the Portsmouth Garden Club’s website, attended numerous county MG meetings to discuss and plan educational opportunities, prepped and volunteered for the Spring Fair at the Nature Conservancy, engaged in extensive civic landscaping in Hampton where she was able pass on her knowledge to the Town Manager and his senior staff, as well as the general public. In her MG annual activity report, Marilyn freely admits, “I stopped counting at 100 hours.”

Bill Keating (MG 2008) spent many hours at the monthly Rockingham County Master Gardener meetings discussing, reporting, and planning MG activities and projects, and then playing a role in many of these plans. He collaborated with Ron Christie on several educational presentations throughout the year: Planning Your Garden—Starting A Vegetable Garden and Harvesting Vegetables to Preserve Containers and Raised Beds, Weeds, Pests, and Disease: Crop Rotation Companion Plants and Allies Permaculture Composting: Cover Crops and Green Manures.

Bill was also one of the MGs at the Spring Fair at the Nature Conservancy where he fielded questions on soil testing. In June he participated in the Vegetable Compatibility Group workshop at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, and throughout the summer you could find him watering, weeding, answering questions and sharing information on growing herbs at the North Hampton Community Garden Master Gardener Project. With over 100 hours of volunteer time logged this year, Bill’s diverse activities reflect the wide variety of opportunities for service available to MGs in the state.

Dorothy (MG 1998) and Frank Cole (MG 1998) attended numerous workshops on horticultural and environmental issues as they fulfilled requirements in the Advanced Master Gardener program. They applied their knowledge gained during the year in the planning sessions for the development of the Rockingham County Demonstration Garden to be used for horticultural presentations in the summer at the Brentwood County Complex. They also spent a day grading and bundling 2-3 year old seedlings at the State Nursery in Boscawen. Dorothy staffed the NH Invasives booth at the Spring Fair at the Nature Conservancy, welcomed visitors to the Fuller Gardens in North Hampton where she related the history of the garden and answered questions on the plantings, and gave monthly presentations to the Atkinson Garden club that were targeted at that month’s opportunities and challenges in the garden.

Other Rockingham county MGs who volunteered to help out at the State Nursery in Boscawen were Robin Hernandez (MG 2012), David Bryan (MG 2007), who also worked with Dot Perkins, Merrimack County Food and Agricultural Specialist, and Annie Lund (MG 2006) at the Paul Smith Elementary School

in Franklin preparing the site for fall planting, Candace Chaplin (MG 2010), who worked as well with students at Nottingham Elementary planting seeds and seedlings, working on the garden beds, and preparing the soil, and Norma McGarr (MG 2011), who, in addition to her Boscawen efforts, staffed the Master Gardener Information Booth at the UNH Greenhouses Open House.

Abigail Tonry (MG 2007) accomplished nursery work in Hampton Falls as she planted 5000 Christmas trees. She was another MG staffing the plant sale table at the Spring Fair.

Lisa Cote (MG 2005) is another MG who added her expertise to the discussions and planning sessions at the Rockingham County MG monthly meetings. Lisa was the Hampton Garden Club’s February speaker and presented Growing Plants in the Greenhouse. She covered soil, seeds, containers used, fertilizers, growing temperatures, and when to start your plants. Her greenhouse in North Hampton was the site of three school visits that provided basic horticultural knowledge to students and teachers alike. She also served at the Spring Fair, working at the plant sale and answering questions for potential customers. North Hampton Community Garden members invited her to talk about herb gardening. Centennial Hall in North Hampton benefitted from her garden maintenance. And like so many of her colleagues, Lisa extended her own knowledge at a meeting on commercial marketing in Portsmouth, and at NHMGA conferences in Bristol and Concord.

Also among the cohort of MGs who contributed to the MG monthly meetings were Marge Badois (MG 2001), another MG who worked the plant sale table at the Spring Fair as well, Sandra Brubaker (MG 2007), who threw her efforts into planning for the Demonstration and Instruction Garden (DIG) in Brentwood, Paula Francese (MG 2000), who prepared the Weekly Weeder newsletter, Matt Rioux (MG 2005) and Denise Stevenson (MG 2007) who updated the Rockingham County handouts board. Elizabeth St. Armand (MG 2008) maintained the county office fact sheet board and assisted in a September MG workshop. Kathy Cypher (MG 2004) met to prepare for the Spring Fair where she also worked the plant sale table. She made frequent use of available fact sheets as she discussed them with her colleagues, then researched, printed, and distributed them to friends, family, and neighbors.

In addition to working the Info Line at the Education center, Marcia McLaughlin (MG 2009) volunteered in a variety of activities at the Strawberry Banke museum in Portsmouth. She created seed packets in preparation for their annual Fall Festival. During the festival she discussed gardening and identified flowers for visitors in the Children’s Victorian Garden. Marcia was there for the fall garden cleanup as well. Later that year she used floral materials to prepare decorations for those museum’s houses that would be open to the public during the December Stroll. At the Stroll, Marcia demonstrated wreath and rope making from found

materials in the yard or from the roadside.

Several other MGs volunteered at Strawberry Banke during the year. Melissa Currier (MG 2011) worked with John Forti, the museum's Curator of Historic Landscapes, to design and develop a Discovery Guide and a detailed map of the Victorian Children's Garden to be available on the museum's website, in a "Take One" box in the garden, and in the orientation packets for visiting group leaders. She also worked with John on the volunteer orientation program for the garden and served as a volunteer trainer.

Volunteers orient visitors to the garden exhibits, pose questions and suggest answers about the teaching gardens, and inspire take-away projects and family activities post-visit. Martha logged many hours as the volunteer coordinator for the Children's Garden and still found time to develop a presentation on Heirlooms and Edible Plantscapes for the MG Presentation Library. April Frey (MG 2009) was one of the Master Gardener volunteers in the Children's Garden. She also staffed the Invasives Table at the Spring Fair at the Nature Conservancy. Nancy Pollard (MG 2006) volunteered at the Children's Garden every other Wednesday from May through October. Rosalie Marie Scher (MG 2005), another regular in the Children's Garden, described what happens after she gives the garden tour to children, "I do an activity with them that usually ends up with a take home project and encourage the children to follow up on what they learned at the site."

Laurie Conrad (MG 2003) teamed with other Candia MGs to maintain the gardens at the Candia Town Hall and the butterfly garden at the Henry W. Moore School. She was also part of the much larger team that participated in the Welcome Spring symposium. One of her teammates on the butterfly garden project was Aline Hammerstrom (MG 2010). She also potted plants for the Senior Lunch Candia Plant Sale and planted the Candia Trough on Langford Road. Ailine said her most rewarding activity was reading *The Lorax* to first graders during the library's Read Across America program and answering their questions about trees. (Remember, the *Lorax* "speaks for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.") Mary Dillon (MG 2000) also used her time maintaining the gardens at the Candia community park to engage with the public, explaining the problem-solving resources available through the UNH Cooperative Extension Info Line and the Master Gardener program.

Diane Forsyth (MG 2011) volunteered twenty hours staffing the Education Center's Info Line, as well as spent a day in the spring at the NH State Nursery sorting seedlings, a day helping MG Linda Bieber (MG 2011) with her Special Project at Chapman's Landing, another day volunteering in the garden at the Currier Museum's Zimmerman House, and finally a day augmenting her knowledge in a pruning workshop. Two other MGs who worked the Info Line were Ellen Alexander (MG 2010) and Gary Sheehan (MG 2007). They were also on the MG team that provided educational outreach and promoted the Master Gardener program at the UNH Greenhouse Open House. Mary Street (MG 2010) supported the Education Center with her editing skills as she took on the revising

of the Master Gardener Handbook.

Diane Anderson (MG 2010), who was on the MG team at the UNH Greenhouse Open House as well, gave presentations on Permaculture Design Principles to both the Barrington and Strafford Garden Clubs. She also visited with the staff at the Joppa Hill Educational Farm in Bedford and offered to prepare a plan for a permaculture garden that would become part of their educational format and reduce their maintenance requirements.

In addition to acquiring new information at multiple workshops and working with her peers to develop ways to present MG programming in the future, Dena Stern (MG 2009) met with the Director of St. Vincent de Paul in Exeter to evaluate his landscape and design a plan for site restoration. She was also busy during the year planning the Veteran's Garden at Stratham Hill Park.

Dan Weaver (MG 2009) developed the Power Point presentation Perennial Parade, a project financed by the NHMGA and executed at the Demonstration and Instructional Garden (DIG) in Brentwood. Dan also designed a formal garden at the New Creation Healing Center in Kingston, laying out the site for excavation and seeding.

Martha Fountain (MG 2004) made a presentation to the Newfields School and became their Master Gardener. With the principal, teachers, students, and parents, she oversaw the construction of six raised beds. Each student had a square foot of growing area. Over the course of six months, Martha gave lessons to her "construction crew" around site choice, compost mixing, garden plotting, seed sowing, germination, watering, weeding, harvesting, cover crop sowing, and cold season planting and insulating. Martha reported, "Students, parents, teachers, and their principle are very enthusiastic about the process, with particularly positive feelings about the social, educational, and health benefits."

Several other MGs worked in traditional educational settings. Suzy Martin (MG 2008) partnered with students and teachers to landscape the front of the Seacoast Charter School in Kingston. The 4H programs in NH foster sound gardening practices and often use Master Gardeners as resources.

Diane Nugent (MG 2001) was one such resource as she collaborated with the new 4H coordinator in Rockingham County on possible hands-on, MG-taught, educational topics such as vermiculture, hydroponics, small-space gardening, three-sisters gardens (corn, beans, and squash), and edible flowers.

Pat Shea (MG 2012) worked with clients and employees in filling and planting raised beds at the school garden at the Great Bay Discovery Center in Greenland. She also worked with a team at the Discover Portsmouth Center cleaning up beds and designing future planting combinations.

Leslie Stevens (MG 2008) designed and implemented a six-session,

45-minute class for children aged four through seven at the NH Children's Museum in Dover. They built three raised beds behind the museum, started plants from seed, managed their garden through the summer, and harvested vegetables in the fall.

Margaret Theobald (MG 2006) consulted with students and community volunteers at the Community Garden at Exeter High School where she provided assistance with planning, garden design, and maintenance. The raised bed garden is producing vegetables and herbs for the school cafeteria and is used for educational purposes by classes and student groups. This year saw an increase in the size and scope of the garden as well as in the number of students involved.

Tracy Ritzo (MG 2008) installed a garden at Rye Junior High in 2009 where it has become an integrated part of school learning activities. She continues each year to work at the garden with students and faculty, writing grants as necessary for garden expansions and plant additions. She provides the same type of support at the Rye County Day School gardens and helps out at the Rye Public Library with their children's garden club activities.

Two MGs took to the airwaves:

Heather Beaulieu (MG 2011) developed a three-segment film, *Greening Your Food*, which aired multiple times on the Plaistow town cable channel. A Vimeo link to the program was distributed via an online community bulletin board and the town's Go Green Plaistow Facebook page. The program raised awareness about local sources of food including CSAs, farmers' markets, and Pick Your Own operations. The film also provided information on home gardening and local sources for seedlings, as well as a demonstration on growing sprouts at home.

Thomas Mickey (MG 1998), who was a regular at the monthly MG meetings and a volunteer in the demonstration garden in Brentwood, researched, wrote, and taped twenty, five-minute segments called *Garden Talk* that aired Fridays on Radio Gazette, a weekly program on Portsmouth Community Radio FM 104. These segments were also made available online.

The Rockingham County Master Gardeners are a diverse group who used their individual strengths and local contacts in the seacoast to foster partnerships and build effective teams in order to educate the public on best garden practices and offer solutions to gardening challenges

STRAFFORD COUNTY

Strafford County Master Gardeners conducted workshops, volunteered in schools with teachers, students, and parents, gardened in community spaces where they engaged with the public to answer questions and promote the Master Gardener Program, collaborated as members of the Strafford

County Master Gardener Association (SCMGA) to plan activities and projects, and partnered with the county 4-H organization in the annual "Kids Can Grow" program.

Strafford County Special Project

Kathy Travaglini (MG 2009) took on the role of grant writer for the 4-H/Strafford County MG "Kids Can Grow" summer program. Designed for children eight-to-twelve, each participant receives all the materials (wood, compost, and peat moss) needed to construct a 3x5 raised garden bed at their home and a MG mentor to guide them. Gardening educational sessions are taught monthly from May through September at the demonstration garden on the Strafford County Farm complex in Dover. The harvest from these beds is shared with the Riverside Rest Home. Some of the children chose to enter their produce in the 4-H displays at the Rochester County Fair. A harvest celebration with cooking and a distribution of a handbook concludes the program each fall. Kathy received funding from the NHMGA for equipment, corner braces, compost, peat moss, and seed starting trays. Existing beds at the demonstration garden were refurbished and a few more added. In addition to her grant writing, Kathy attended the program's planning meetings and participated in their educational gardening sessions. She was also part of the MG team at the Joe Parks Riverwalk Garden in Dover, planting, weeding and watering in preparation for the dedication of art along the Riverwalk.

Altogether, the Strafford County MGs volunteered 708 hours and made over 3000 citizen contacts. Working in many diverse settings, they fostered horticultural education, solved gardening problems, and strengthened their own knowledge through continuing education opportunities.

Noreen Gaetjens (MG 2001) was the MG coordinator for the "Kids Can Grow" program. In her annual activity Project Results section, she reported, "An ongoing project for many years, this program reaches many families in our county and introduces them to the joys of home gardening. The kids are very excited about what they grow and happy to share their produce from the demonstration garden. New vegetables and ways to serve them are introduced at each teaching session; all teaching is hands-on and affords everyone a chance to be actively involved." Noreen also worked with kids and their families through the Dover Housing Authority at the Seymour Osman Community Center. This program involved families in constructing raised beds and then having weekly, small-group training sessions on all aspects of gardening, to include the introduction of new vegetables as well as cooking instructions. "A great group of kids...completely involved...great questions...cooking day was a big hit..." were some of Noreen's comments. In addition, she noted that having the beds in a secure location this year was a big improvement over past years. Included in Noreen's eighty hours of volunteer time was the sharing of her experience with six potential MGs, as she assisted

with prospective MG interviews, helping to answer questions and describe MG programs.

Annamarie Gasowski (MG 2009) mentored fifteen student gardeners in raised bed gardening techniques, both at their homes and at the “Kids Can Grow” demonstration garden. In other venues, she helped to construct, plant, and tend raised beds with third and fourth grade students and their teachers at the Mast Way School in Lee, conducted a Gardening With Kids workshop at the Lee Public Library, and, with MG Jean Olson, led a workshop for adults on Starting A Vegetable Garden as part of the Backyard Farming series sponsored by the Lee Agricultural commission. Annamarie was also busy supporting her fellow MGs as a member of the SCMGA Bylaws Revision Committee.

Loretta Campbell (MG 1999) was an instructor for the “Kids Can Grow” program at the demonstration garden, teaching children and their parents how, what, and when to plant vegetables and flowers. She also taught young students at the School Street School Garden Club about raised bed gardening techniques, introducing them to unfamiliar vegetables and beneficial insects. Staffing the information table at the Lee Congregational Church Plant Sale, Loretta educated customers on the proper location, propagation and maintenance of their plantings.

In addition to teaching sessions for the “Kids Can Grow” program, Jean Olson (MG 2009) also organized the children’s seed requests (obtained, counted, and packaged), prepared for the program’s cooking demonstration, participated in the Harvest Celebration in August, and guided the publication of the program’s annual cookbook. Jean said about her experience, “As a Master Gardener, I learn as much as the children/families from the learning community.” She also partnered with MG Annie Gasowski to present Starting A Vegetable Garden, a workshop for adults in Lee, and was the Master Gardener for the kick-off year of the Community Gardens For All at Wagon Hill Farm in Durham, where she conducted an on-site workshop in the Square Foot Gardening Method to include planting the demonstration bed and then working with participants as they prepared and planted their own beds.

Judith Wilson (MG 2009) was also busy with the “Kids Can Grow” program as a teacher and mentor. She worked behind the scenes in the always important and necessary program-preparation work: attending the kick-off organizational meeting, mailing program information to families, contacting mentors for children, and cleaning up the demonstration beds. Judith was part of the MG team that weeded beds and added new plantings on the Joe Parks Riverwalk and worked along side UNH students at the Seymour Osman Community Center (SOCC), where she directed them in techniques for weeding a large area of landscape that had been neglected.

From the monthly Saturday lessons on all aspects of gardening, to how-to-show vegetables and flowers at the Rochester Fair 4H

exhibit, to the Harvest Celebration at UNH with pasta stir fry and the children’s own home garden veggies, Eugenie McCrone (MG 2007) was involved in all aspects of “Kids Can Grow”. In addition, she found time to participate in a garden project at the Seymour Osman Community Center’s summer education program for six-to-eight-year olds.

“It was a very enjoyable experience and we had so many enthusiastic kids, parents, and MGs involved,” reported Linda Seedner (MG 2009) on her first year’s involvement with “Kids Can Grow”. Her first task was to obtain plants from Wentworth Gardens, who give generously to the program every year, and, in another generous offering by the Banks family, to gather lumber for construction of the raised beds. Later in the summer she taught a Saturday lesson on soil composition, and in August was asked to be a garden judge. Linda said, “It was fun to see how the children managed their gardens in regard to pest control and weeding.” Linda also served as a guide at three of Bedrock Gardens’ Open House days informing visitors on the unusual plants and features of the garden. She helped pot and sell some of the plants the owners agreed to split up and worked at the garden during their clean-up days. She says, “Someday we hope to get funding for this to become a public garden, open all year round. We have applied for tax exemption so that we can hold educational, as well as art classes, on the property.” In addition, Linda acted as the SCMGA’s overall co-chair and volunteered to co-chair their annual plant sale in Durham, a labor-intensive event that funds upcoming projects in Strafford County.

Debra Sawyer (MG 2005), a “Kids Can Grow” mentor, reflected on her experience: “Great seeing the kids’ interest in learning and applying what they learned in their own gardens. They were also extremely interested in harvesting their produce and cooking it for the Harvest Dinner.” On September 11th, Debra lent her MG expertise to the cleanup of Dover’s Riverwalk Gardens, working with United Way and Air Force volunteers.

Barbara Flynn (MG 1998) pitched in as a shed painter in preparation for the “Kids Can Grow” kickoff, then participated in the planning meetings, provided educational support at the Saturday classes at the demonstration garden, and performed the all-important work as a child’s gardening mentor.

Cecilia Esposito (MG 2011) also mentored in the “Kids Can Grow” project and was one of the MGs who staffed the information booth at the Bedrock Gardens Open House in Lee, answering questions on the garden’s plants and promoting the Master Gardener program.

Gael Grant (MG 1995) operated as a center of information at the weekly Lee Farmers’ Market for all aspects relating to gardening: garden design for all seasons, bugs, diseases, critters, gardening ideas for young and old, and general trouble shooting. In describing her MG volunteer activity, she says, “I feel I am being truly useful to our community which gives me a sense of

well-being. I have made loads of friends from helping would-be gardeners and also interested many in the program.” Gael also contributed to the association planning meetings, extended her overall MG educational outreach efforts by writing a newspaper article, and accomplished some hands-on maintenance at two of the town’s public gardens. A long-time ambassador for the MG program, Gael served ninety hours in support of the MG mission of education and problem solving.

Carol Doering (MG 2010) spent many hours maintaining the Garden of Native NH Plants that has been established at the Lee Transfer Station. She performed garden maintenance at Bedrock Gardens and then staffed the information booth there when they were opened to the public. Carol participated in two local plant sales, raising funds for both the Strafford County Conservation District and the Strafford County Master Gardeners.

Carolyn Bassage (MG 1999) devoted her volunteer hours to the Garden of Native NH Plants and the composting program at the Lee Transfer Station. Describing the educational value in her annual activity report, she said, “I am part of a team of MGs and community volunteers who maintain this garden for the benefit and education of Lee residents. Mast Way Elementary School is within walking distance of the garden and each year the third grade visits and learns what is unique to NH environments and why these plants do so well here in the garden. The Transfer Station uses yard refuse brought in by residents to create compost that has cooked for almost two years. As residents bring in their yard waste we often visit with them and show them how it is used. The compost is free to residents.”

Joan VanLandingham (MG 2010) volunteered in several venues, She spent a day at the State Nursery in Boscawen sorting seedlings for distribution, fertilized the memorial park at Dover’s Riverwalk, assisted in the fall cleanup at the Currier Museum’s Zimmerman House in Manchester, educated visitors about Bedrock Gardens in Lee, and partnered with NH’s Marine Docents to introduce visiting groups to the history of the Celia Thaxter gardens on Appledore Island (some plants for this garden are raised annually in the greenhouses of the Thompson School of Applied Science at UNH).

Tina Burr (MG 2009) lent her editing and layout expertise to finishing the Community Garden Handbook. She worked on the final edits, proofread the final copy, solicited and then selected photographs, and wrote their captions. “Many e-mails, many team meetings,” she said in her annual report. The result: “Book is finished and being published.”

Judith Von Feldt (MG 2007) was another MG who used her communication skills to help the SCMGA help others. In addition to staffing the Ask A Master Gardener booth at the Lee Plant Sale, Judith executed the duties of SCMGA Secretary. She recorded and transcribed all the meeting minutes, acted as the center for the organization’s e-mail communications, and updated the Wiki.

Carol Smack (MG 1992) took advantage of many different volunteer opportunities. She organized and monitored a workshop on Ornamental Grasses, provided liaison with the speaker for another workshop as part of her general prep work, volunteered at the Farm and Forest Expo, maintained the garden at the Zimmerman House, worked with a MG team at Bedrock Garden during their cleanup day, then returned to be MG resource at their Open House, helped with contact work on the Fern Walk, and was active in the Joint Committee for Continuing Education (JCEC).

Susan Hannah (MG 2004) also worked on the JCEC, planning summer workshops and the fall conference. She was active in the Strafford County Master Gardeners’ Association and prepared cuttings and potted plants for their annual plant sale in support of raising funds for the county’s MG projects.

Althea Weeks (MG 1998) maintained the plantings around the Strafford Town Hall, weeding, deadheading, and cutting back the perennials as necessary. Her presence at this focal point in the community gave her the opportunity to engage with the townspeople on gardening topics and the Master Gardener program.

While they contributed their time and expertise to many organizations, over fifty percent of the Strafford County Master Gardeners were involved in the “Kids Can Grow” project in Dover. This highly successful collaboration between the 4-H staff and Master Gardeners in Strafford County serves as a model for any organization which is searching for volunteers to augment their programs with practical home and garden education, and promote the sustainability ethic.

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Eleven Master Gardeners in Sullivan County interacted with over 1300 people in their 370 hours of volunteer time. Some of them worked at the St. Gauden’s Historic site, others organized and presented educational workshops, while others provided outreach at schools, local fairs, community gardens and group homes.

Sullivan County Special Project

Adele Furdyna (MG 2000) took primary responsibility for a project suggested by Extension Field Specialist Gail Kennedy to take place at the Arbor View residential facility in Newport. Arbor View is a licensed, recovery-focused, community residence for 16 clients with severe and persistent mental illness, and Gail proposed a program of educating the staff and residents in creating and maintaining on-site a vegetable garden planted in several large containers, as well as having MGs oversee the reconstruction

of a neglected perennial bed on the grounds. Adele met initially with the treatment manager at Arbor view and then prepared a grant request for tools, soil amendments, plants, and gardening books and binders about the ongoing care of plants. When NHMGA funded her request, Adele engaged with Arbor View residents and staff over the course of several meetings to determine how best to proceed. She had secured assistance for the project from Mario Capozzoli (MG 2009) and in April the two had a review of goals and plans with Arbor View administrators, and then met with a local garden center owner to discuss future donations of materials and plants. Adele also received some donated plants from the Grantham Garden Club from their annual plant sale. In early June, she and Mario purchased most of the plants, equipment, and soil amendments. Having previously instructed the residents on basic gardening, they guided the residents in planting the vegetable and herb gardens. Describing her post-planting follow-up in her annual activity report, Adele said, "Over the summer I made numerous visits to Arbor View to provide additional information and direction on plants. I prepared and presented to Arbor View an information binder directly relating to the plants they had. I purchased and presented Arbor View with numerous gardening books for the residents to enjoy and learn from. I was part of a discussion with the residents on how the plants they were growing fit in with good nutritional eating habits. I advised them on how to put the garden to bed when the time came."

In addition to her Special Project work, Adele also organized two meetings for her fellow Sullivan County MGs in April and June and was organizing a third for FY 2013. She conducted both these meetings and provided summaries to participants. Adele also consulted with several MGs on the 2013 Sullivan County MG educational program series.

Mario was involved in many other activities as well. Working with a Sullivan County staffer in February, he planned community garden outreach for the county. In March, Mario was busy assisting the county agricultural staff with a fruit tree pruning session. Later that month, he presented a talk to the Claremont Garden Club on fruit and vegetable gardening. April found him consulting with a Pathways group home in Newport on building a vegetable garden, so that the twelve residents would have access to the sensory experiences growing fresh produce.

The Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, and Blow Me Down Farm which is part of the site, saw three MGs volunteering in their historic gardens.

Dan Dewey (MG 2012) worked directly for James Haff, the site's head gardener, and conducted a preliminary assessment of the farm's remaining perennial gardens in preparation for an inventory of plantings and their subsequent reclamation. Working weekly throughout the summer, he spread his 70 hours of volunteer time between this project and maintaining the formal and cutting gardens at the Saint-Gaudens home.

Lauryn Moeller (MG 2004) spent several hours maintaining the formal and cutting gardens as well. In addition, Lauryn worked with children at the Cornish Fair when they brought in their vegetables for display; later she compiled the data for their ribbons. Cheryl KringGrabe (MG 2001) worked with Dan Dewey, mentoring him on his Blow Me Down Farm inventory. She maintained the Saint-Gaudens's gardens as well, explaining the formal gardens and historic plantings to visitors. As part of her 65 hours of annual volunteer time, Cheryl answered a request from the Sullivan County office in Newport to make two presentations on Soils, Compost, and Insects at Olympus Biotech in West Lebanon. She reported there was a great discussion and she answered many questions on a wide variety of homeowner topics.

In a unique educational forum, Sullivan County MGs collaborated on a speakers' series for beginning gardeners held at The Fells on Lake Sunapee in Newbury.

Suzanne reported that the overall program increased awareness of The Fells Horticultural programs, Master Gardeners as local resources, and the Master Gardener program itself. The success of the program fostered confidence and willingness of Master Gardeners, and at year's end Suzanne was busy organizing a 2013 series on other topics.

Henry also assisted a MG intern in the design and installation of a rain garden in Lebanon and ran the Vegetable Division of the Cornish Fair where he received exhibits, organized the room, answered gardening questions, worked with judges, filled out paperwork, and "Finally", he said, "cleaned up Sunday night."

Diana Wyman's presentation also included a tour of The Fells' perennial gardens to reinforce her points on site preparation, planting selection, and care of perennials. She also worked at the Sunapee Library Plant Sale, preparing handouts for planting annuals, pruning, and container gardening. Later in the summer Diana assisted the NH League of Arts and Crafts, just prior to their annual fair in Sunapee, with the arrangement of planted containers in their sculpture garden.

In March, Kiki introduced the first session on Tools and Pruning to 60 people and returned in September to present the last talk in the series on Dividing Perennials and Putting the Garden to Bed for the winter. Part of her presentation at The Fells' nursery was a hands-on experience using the proper tools for dividing plants. Many of the participants left with newly divided plants for their home gardens. Kiki also made other presentations during the year: one to the Sullivan County MGs on Landscaping at the Water's Edge, which she adapted to fit the situation of a home on Lake Sunapee, and two separate presentations at the Knowlton House in Sunapee on the rain gardens at the Lake Sunapee Protective Association headquarters.

Rachel Stoddard (MG 2004) organized and ran a plant sale for the Meriden Library. She provided perennials, recruited MGs, selected reference materials, assisted with plant selection, care and mulching, and disseminated Extension Service information. Rachel continued to care for the library's perennial beds throughout the summer and offered her labor and expertise to a local senior citizen in the reclaiming and caring for her garden. In June, she was asked by the Plainfield Elementary School in Meriden to assist the second grade

during a Community Service Day in one of the school's perennial gardens. She worked with the students on plant identification and understanding root systems, then helped them weed, plant, mulch, and water. In her annual activity report, Rachel said, "The children had a wonderful time and did a great (conscientious) job! They enjoyed going to the garden during recess, looking at the flowers they planted, and admired their weeding/mulching jobs."

Christine Hawkins (MG 2006) organized the Claremont Community Garden in 2007. When the garden had to be moved this year from its original location due to the building of a new Community Center, Christine spearheaded the drive to relocate. "It took many hours of consultation with the Parks and Recreation Director to find a suitable location," she said. "We settled on a beautiful piece of land on the Sugar River. We met with the City Council to verify this project and signed affidavits for its proper use on city-owned property. The Claremont 4-H leader has been very active in gardening with her club and the children spoke to the councilors about its benefits." Christine recruited the Claremont Fire Department to deliver water weekly to the holding tank at the new site, and the garden produced beautiful crops. There have been some neighbors' complaints to overcome, which continue to pop up, but Christine is determined to save this project. She summarized the garden's season in her annual activity report, "It was a team effort to get the garden relocated and have the city approve of its land being so used. The Fire Department was most helpful and the participants enjoyed great success. The 4-H club took produce to the soup kitchen and the county home."

Sullivan County's Master Gardeners provided significant educational outreach and extended their problem solving skills to many, many people during the year. Their efforts, like the efforts of all the Master Gardeners across New Hampshire, are investments in a sustainable future. These investments are paying dividends today in our schools, our communities, our food pantries and soup kitchens, our long-term care facilities, our neighborhoods, and our homes.

Speaker's Series

Suzanne Tether (MG 2008) organized a seven-topic, six-session program that began in March and ran through September:

1. Tools-Henry Homeyer (MG 1998)
2. Pruning-Tressa Gaffney
3. Vegetable Gardening-Rose Batts (MG 2009)
4. Landscape and Art
Marilyn Hill (MG 2005)
5. Creating Patio and Accent
Containers-Suzanne Tether (MG 2008)
6. Perennials-Diana Wyman
(MG 2004)
7. Putting the Garden to Bed
Kiki Schneider (MG 2006)



EDUCATION CENTER & INFORMATION LINE

One hundred and three Master Gardeners from five counties volunteered over 3100 hours staffing the Information Line at the Cooperative Extension's Education Center. In its 13 years of operation, MG volunteers have answered over 65,000 information requests. Their interaction with New Hampshire citizens supported both the mission of the University of New Hampshire—"...our primary purpose is learning..."—and the Master Gardener credo: Extending Knowledge and Solving Problems. Working under the supervision of a Cooperative Extension professional, MGs use their training to educate Info Line customers. After asking a series of questions sufficient to accurately frame the issue, MGs will either redirect the caller to the appropriate Extension Specialist, or, as happens most often, work with the caller to find a definitive answer or explore possible alternative solutions, all the while teaching the caller research techniques they can apply on their own.

The impact of the Info Line work yields both economic and environmental benefits. In using refereed sources from .edu websites, MGs partner with callers to craft solutions that save the caller money and have a positive environmental impact. Integrated Pest management (IPM) is one such example:

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices.

IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

The IPM approach can be applied to both agricultural and non-agricultural settings, such as the home, garden, and workplace. IPM takes advantage of all appropriate pest management options including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides.

Always aware of the overarching goal of safety, MG Info Line volunteers consistently focus on problem-solving alternatives that provide the best combination of economic and environmental benefit to the people of New Hampshire.

The Education Center's big news in 2012 was the move from their office in Manchester to a new space in the Hillsborough County Complex in Goffstown. When the transition was complete, the full-time staff, under the leadership of Rachel Maccini, Education Center and Info Line Coordinator, began the development of a business plan using focus groups and surveys. Analysis of incoming calls by key word was also used to inform the business plan.

Call analysis has always been utilized in considering the curriculum for each semi-annual, 13-session Master Gardener training program. An analysis of over 27,000 queries in the past five years indicates that year-after-year the questions continue to be about trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, lawns, and the pests that attack them; these areas necessarily represent the bulk of the training time. Of course, an increased call frequency in specific topics—most recently, backyard chickens—does result in adding a block of instruction on that subject matter. And if something is added, what will be cut? That is the question Marcy Stanton, Master Gardener Coordinator, is continually challenged with, spring and fall, as she puts each class together. Often she satisfies newly identified training requirements by presenting a particular Master Gardener Continuing Education workshop. Charged with the responsibility for coordinating continuing education opportunities for Master Gardeners, Marcy works closely with Rachel and several MG volunteers on the Joint Committee on Continuing Education to produce a robust series of workshops throughout the year that are primarily for Master Gardeners but also open to the general public and promoted on the UNHCE website.

The sheer volume of activity at the Info Line is remarkable. Continued Master Gardener volunteerism is vital in providing this resource to NH citizens and supporting NH's environment. The Education Center staff is critical to recruiting, training, and supporting the Master Gardener cohort, not just for the Info Line, but also for service throughout the state. In 2012, this partnership of professional staff and dedicated volunteers delivered over 10,000 volunteer hours on behalf of the people of New Hampshire.