2007 Annual Master Gardener Highlight Report

1977-2007 Celebrating 30 Years

The year 2007 marked the 30th anniversary of the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Program. The release of a new publication written by Master Gardeners and several celebration events focused attention on the commitment and dedicated work of volunteers over the past 30 years. Seven Master Gardeners, active since participating in the first Master Gardener training class in 1977, were recognized for their 30 years of service.

Master Gardeners select mugs and mums as mementos of the 30th anniversary celebration. *(photo by David Moen)*

"The Best Plants for 30 Tough Sites" was compiled and written by Master Gardeners to recognize this benchmark year. It was edited by well-known University of Minnesota horticulture experts Mary Meyer, Deb Brown, and Mike Zins. The first printing sold out quickly. The popular publication features plant recommendations for tough locations like dry shade, low light, and shorelines.

On a humid day in August over 150 Master Gardeners celebrated on the U of M campus. Mike Zins, Horticulture professor emeritus and one of the founders of the Minnesota Master Gardener Program, was featured speaker. Tours of the display and trail gardens, lots of reminiscing among long-time and new Master Gardeners, and of course, birthday cake, highlighted the event. Each attendee left with a memory book, a commemorative mug and a Minnesota-introduced mum plant.

"30 years of Master Gardener Teaching" was a theme of the 2007 State Master Gardener Conference in Fergus Falls in September. The awards ceremony recognized eight Master Gardeners who have been active volunteers for 30 years.

Snapshot of 2007 Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners

1550 Active and emeritus Master Gardeners

276 new interns trained

106,549 volunteer service hours educating others

30,130 education hours receiving training

58 hours — the average number of volunteer service hours contributed by each Master Gardener

Recognized at the 2007 State Master Gardener Conference in September for 30 years of Volunteer Service

Adeline Buehler (Dakota Co.)
Archie Caple (Hennepin Co.)
Stanley Crist (Hennepin Co.)
Cynthia Driscoll (Itasca Co.)
Dorothy Johnson (Crow Wing Co.)
Martha Rebhorn (Hennepin Co.)
Elizabeth Willis (Ramsey Co.)

Minnesota Master Gardener Mission

Support Extension by providing volunteers trained in horticulture to educate the public with research based information on the best practices in consumer horticulture and environmental stewardship.

www.mg.umn.edu

University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Master Gardener™
University of Minnesota
EXTENSION

Study Identified Public Benefits of Extension Master Gardener Program

Beyond the personal value the comes to Master Gardener volunteers and the individuals they education, what is the public benefit of their work? That was the question addressed in a Master Gardener Public Benefit Study released in 2007.

Stakeholder groups that included County Commissioners and County Extension Committee members, University of Minnesota Extension staff, and Master Gardeners were asked to generate data about the public benefits of Master Gardener work. In the end, eight of the over 40 attributes of public benefit identified were rated as having much or very much public value by all groups. The study concludes that Master Gardener contribute some of the greatest public benefit when they work in these areas.

1. Water Quality/Natural Environment
   Improve the natural environment through education that leads to reduced yard waste, water runoff, pollution and demands on landfills.
2. Invasive Species
   Reduce the spread of hazardous and invasive plants, insects and disease.
3. Community Capacity
   Increase effectiveness of community public service organizations (such as Habitat for Humanity, schools and county correction facilities) by partnering with those organizations to broaden and strengthen their capacity.
4. Safety and Health
   Increase safety and health of Minnesotans through education about proper use and handling of pesticides.
5. Youth and Child Development
   Increase social, emotional and cognitive ability of children and youth by engaging them in plant science programs, often in collaboration with schools.
6. Special Populations
   Provide vulnerable populations (e.g., elderly and people with disabilities) with increased access to meaningful, multi-skill, community-focused activities.
7. Research-Based Information
   Increase citizen access to tax supported University research-based information.
8. Access to U of M
   Increase citizen access to other tax supported University of Minnesota resources and service.

For 30 years Master Gardeners have been a valued resource to Minnesota citizens. The public benefit study confirms and identifies key areas where Master Gardener volunteer work can make the most public impact. While each county has unique and different needs, paying attention to public benefit of Master Gardener work will ensure that the program delivers valued public benefit well into the next 30 years.

Dr. Mary Meyer receives a gift from the State Master Gardener Advisory Board Chair, Tom Hutsell , in thanks for her 13 year service as State Master Gardener Coordinator. *(photo by David Moen)*

Year of Transitions

The Master Gardener State Advisory Board found the 30th anniversary celebration event in August the perfect occasion to honor Dr. Mary Meyer who served as State Master Gardener Coordinator for 13 years. Mary returned to a full time faculty teaching and research role on July 1, 2007. Julie Weisenhorn, an instructor in the horticulture department and a 10-year Hennepin County Master Gardener, was named the new State Master Gardener Director. She also serves part time as an Extension Educator, Landscape Design.

In another transition, our woody ornamentals expert and Extension Educator, Nancy Rose, left her position for a position at the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University in Massachusetts.

State Trainings in 2007

Core Course

In 2007 Master Gardener Core Course, involving 48 hours of classroom instructions, was conducted at these locations:

- U of M Arboretum
- Mora
- Cloquet
- Brainerd
- Grand Rapids

The course is also offered online.
A total of 276 new Master Gardener Interns completed the 2007 Master Gardener Core Course.

MG UPDATE Training

This was the third year of conducting Master Gardener UPDATE Trainings. The four-hour trainings combine lecture and hands-on activities. Training topics rotate annually around the state. UPDATE Trainings are designed to provide the latest information about a subject area that a Master Gardener should know in order to remain current in core competency areas. This might include, but is not limited to, new and emerging varieties, research, cultivation practices, or pest control.

In 2007 a total of 260 Master Gardeners attended UPDATE trainings. Host sites for 2007 UPDATE trainings were:

- Duluth – Fruits and vegetables
- Park Rapids – Fruits and vegetables
- Chaska – woody ornamentals
- Slayton – woody ornamentals
- Willmar – woody ornamentals
- Collegeville – turf
- Mankato – herbaceous ornamentals
- Rochester – herbaceous ornamentals

State Master Gardener Conference

The 2007 State Master Gardener Conference in Fergus Falls provided a day-long landscape design seminar, four tours of local horticulture-related venues, seven technical skill workshops and 10 horticulture plant and best practice workshops. One track of workshops focused on projects and understanding to help Master Gardeners reach out to new audiences.

Master Gardeners Make an Impact

Gardening from Jail

Steele County Master Gardeners piloted a gardening partnership in 2007with the Steele County Detention Center. Master Gardeners worked directly with inmates to plan and plant a vegetable garden on the Center's site. Inmates claimed great ownership for the garden and kept it weed free. It created a productive opportunity to pass time and to reinforce workforce and life skills. The garden provided fresh produce for the Center's kitchen. Surplus of produce was donated to a local food shelf. Pumpkins were donated to the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Steele County Detention Center received a state award for the program from the Minnesota Jail Association.

Master Gardeners identify grasses with Extension Educator Bob Mugaas during an UPDATE training session.
(photo by David Moen)

Master Gardeners Make an Impact -

Reaching Out to Youth in Winona

The Winona County Youth Garden Project was started about 13 years ago by a Master Gardener and a single mother who was a part of the Women's Resource Center (WRC), an women's service organization providing emergency shelter and other services. About 35 youth between 5-14 years old are selected each year by the WRC for the program.

Master Gardeners work with the children weekly from June to August. Often there is a short educational program or activity. Other times each youth plants or tends their individual garden plot. The plots are on property of a local Lutheran Church. The church donates the land and prepares the soil for planting.

During the program participants work on journals with WRC staff member. At the end of the season there is a potluck celebration where the youth receive their journals including pictures of their activity throughout the program. This program reaches a diverse audience of youth, youth not traditionally reflected in Extension programs. In 2007, youth were excited to be interviewed for a local television program called "Spirit of Winona."

Master Gardener Sue Ann Mullen says that the most fun part of the project is the kids because they are so excited to have their very own plot of land to garden.

New Looks for Web Resources

The State Master Gardener Program website got a new look in 2007. The fresh, updated design and new format make the site easier to maneuver. Extension educators and faculty introduced a new Extension Garden Information website and redesigned the popular Yard and Garden News. This new website improves diagnostic resource, access to horticulture information and tools for Master Gardeners.

www.mg.umn.edu
www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo

State Master Gardener Diversity Committee Works Toward Goals

The State Master Gardener Diversity Committee has three goals:

1. **To increase the cultural competency of the Master Gardener members**
2. **To provide equal access to Master Gardener services and information for all cultures in Minnesota**
3. **To culturally diversify the Master Gardener membership**

In 2007 the Diversity Committee developed a track of three workshops for the State Master Gardener Conference devoted to diversity and gardening . One built understanding about Lakota history and indigenous gardening traditions. Another explored vegetables from around the world. Yet another described a program for using gardening to reach New Americans. The Committee is seeking to identify Master Gardener programs across the state and highlight them on the Master Gardener website diversity web page. Visit the site at:

www.mg.umn.edu/Diversity/index.html

Master Gardeners Make an Impact — Better Water Quality through Partnerships

Master Gardeners in Cass County work closely with the County's Environmental Services Department. They teach homeowners about environmentally sound shoreline restoration and management then assist homeowners in planning shoreline improvement projects. Their work extends the capacity of the county department and contributes to improving water quality. Similar partnerships with conservation and watershed districts across the state engage Master Gardeners in educating homeowners about rain gardens with the goal of reducing storm water runoff and improving water quality.

In 2007 the State Master Gardener Program introduced financial guidelines for local programs and began implementing background checks for all interns.

Master Gardeners Make an Impact - New Initiative Creates Urban Gardeners

They are called "Urban Gardeners." They receive training in horticulture, nutrition and leadership in kind of a mini-core course. Then the Urban Gardeners promote gardening and serve as garden information resources for neighbors They educate their neighbors about good gardening practices, the health and nutrition benefits of gardening, and growing their own gardens to increase access to fresh produce. The program was developed through a partnership between Hennepin County Master Gardeners and Sabathani Community Center, a Minneapolis nonprofit. It hoped to reach out to people traditionally underserved by the University and Extension. The program drew on Extension expertise from Community Vitality and Engagement and the Nutrition Education Program (Simply Good Eating.) An essential part of the program is to encourage the Urban Gardeners to engage with their neighbors. Participants were trained by Master Gardeners, Nutrition Education Associates and Extension Educators. Two Extension Nutrition Education Associates became Urban Gardeners, maintained a community garden plot near the Center and conducted demonstrations using produce from the garden to educate about the nutritional value of vegetables. Eleven community members completed the program and became "Sabathani Urban Gardeners." In the program's pilot year, Urban Gardeners initiated "gardening conversations" with 120 people, created 22 new gardens in the area, and supported or enhanced 72 other local gardens.

Hennepin County Master Gardener Veronica Malone shows Sabathani Urban Gardeners how to divide perennials during one of the Urban Gardener" training sessions. (photo by Terry Straub)

2007 Extension Master Gardener Programs Have Impact and Add Value

Master Gardeners across the state conduct programs and activities that have impact. Many contribute public benefits that align with those identified in the 2007 study. Of the 47 counties that submitted highlight reports for 2007, here are some ways they have impact:

Water Quality/Natural Environment

- 25 counties conduct programs related to rain gardens and shoreline restoration. Many are done in collaboration with watershed and conservation district offices. Projects fall generally into three areas - teaching class, establishing demonstration gardens, and consulting with individual homeowners.
- 11 counties teach classes, set up demonstrations and distribute information on composting and proper yardwaste disposal. Several counties find youth a prime audience interested in composting education.

Invasive Species

- 14 counties work to raise awareness about and reduce invasive plant and insect species, especially buckthorn and Emerald Ash Borer.

Community Capacity

- 7 counties partner with Habitat for Humanity. They helping new homeowners learn to select and maintain appropriate landscapes that will add to property value. From rural Luverne to inner-city St. Paul, Master Gardeners worked on at least 20 different projects.

Safety and Health

- Most Master Gardener programs incorporate into plant clinic and information booth materials strategies for integrated pest management (IPM) strategies and instructions for safe pesticide use and disposal . Safety was the focus of 1 county's fair display and handouts.

Youth and Child Development

- 28 counties report a variety of programs for youth. Many use the Junior Master Gardener curriculum. They engage youth in fun horticulture and plant science activities in partnership with schools, in collaboration with 4-H and other youth programs, at camps, and at science field days. Whether a one-time classroom project or an ongoing class or garden youth club, Master Gardeners have creative resources to use in getting kids connected to nature.

Special Populations

- 16 counties engage in horticulture therapy programs and projects at senior housing sites and group homes. Several teach staff at those facilities how to use gardening projects in their resident's therapy programs.
- 7 counties have gardening programs designed specific to needs of ethnic and culturally diverse audiences. Many are immigrant families or youth. Programs often take place in conjunction with community gardens teaching new residents about growing food in Minnesota.

Research-Based Information

- Master Gardeners across the state use University research-based information to answer thousands of consumer horticulture questions. Whether by phone lines, plant clinics, booths at fairs or farmer's markets, Master Gardeners are a primary source for local horticulture and plant care information.
- 6 counties report Master Gardeners assisting in research studies conducted by University of Minnesota staff or industry. Projects range from evaluating plants for salt-tolerance to determining rose seed germination. Several counties have active involvement in variety trial gardens.

Access to U of M

- In 2007 more county Master Gardener programs worked in collaboration with other Extension partners in youth development, nutrition education, natural resources, and community vitality to broaden the scope of Extension resources to Minnesotans. Training new Urban Gardeners not only to know horticulture, but to learn community organizing skills and Master Gardeners co-teaching youth at a gardening camp together with Extension Nutrition Education Associates are just two examples.

2007 Master Gardener County Highlight Reports

Anoka County

71 active MG
9 interns
3,800 volunteer hrs.
1000 education hrs.

Anoka County Master Gardeners hosted their 2nd Home Landscaping and Garden Fair offering 21 different classes. Classes routinely emphasized safe environmental practices. The event drew 170 people. This horticulture day featured 14 community sponsors.

Master Gardeners assisted in plant selection, design and supervised installation at 2 Habitat for Humanity projects

Anoka County Master Gardeners engaged in numerous projects with youth through partnerships with schools and organizations. Some of those projects included: writing grants for Schoolyard, Science and Sustainability projects; planting rain gardens and native plant gardens; working with Tree Trust to supervise students for planting projects at two elementary schools; and helping a 4H Adventure club on a community beautification project at a Mobile Home park.

Master Gardeners created and are piloting a new youth program with 4-H after-school that is focused on gardening and arts called GAPS Challenge.

Master Gardeners are partnering with Anoka County Parks on a Veteran's Peace Garden at Bunker Hills Activity Center. The garden incorporates a variety of sensory and accessibility elements including raised beds and a variety of sights, sounds, textures and smells. Master Gardeners will use this site for ongoing educational programs and will develop a self-guided tour for visitors. They also partnered with the County Parks Dept. on a tree sale and worked with City of Andover to come up with solutions for a major highway median planting.

A team of Master Gardeners work with Extension Educator David Zlesak on a rose seed germination research project.

Plant clinics were conducted from June – August. Approximately 700 diagnoses were made. Master Gardeners conducted over 40 "Ask a Master Gardner" booths answering 1100 questions. Over 500 calls were returned to the public from the Yard and garden phone line.

Anoka County Master Gardeners contributed to the 30 Best Plants for Tough Sites and one Master Gardener created power points on various topics in the books. They are available on the State Master Gardener website.

Becker County

17 active MG
1 intern
1,229 volunteer hrs.
340 education hrs.

Becker County Master Gardeners held "Hands-on Hort Day" activities for the elderly (17) and kids with disabilities (40). They presented sessions for elderly on "Color & Moods" and "Gardening As We Age."

Becker County Master Gardeners co-hosted a learning session on rain gardens and assisted in planting a local demonstration rain garden. They have supported the development of Sucker Creek Nature Preserve and have conducted loosestrife eradication projects.

Master Gardeners educate on a regular basis providing newspaper columns, an information booth at county fair and conduct plant clinics three days a week during the growing season.

Becker County Master Gardeners edit a regional Master Gardener newsletter and hosted the regional gathering of Master Gardener focused on earth friendly gardens.

Beltrami County

33 active MG
0 interns
1691 volunteer hrs.
329 education hrs.

The entire Beltrami County Horticulture Day in April was focused on environmental topics. Presentations included education on native plants in landscaping, natural landscaping, lakeshore restoration, and invasive species. Manuals on invasive species were distributed to all attendees. Two hundred people attended the workshop.

Beltrami Master Gardeners answer phone calls on the local Master Gardener hotline from April through the end of October. They also write weekly horticulture articles which are published in the Bemidji Pioneer and the International Falls newspapers. Master Gardeners host a county fair information booth.

One Master Gardener coordinated and hosted a two hour public TV special of presentations by fellow Master Gardeners that covered fall gardening topics that included fall garden chores, storing vegetables, fall lawn care, bulb planting, and more. The program was aired several times on our local public TV station which reaches about one-third of the state.

Master Gardeners have taken a lead on the Bemidji in Bloom project affiliated with the America in Bloom program. This is done in partnership with the City of Bemidji and other local organizations.

A Master Gardener is working with Lake Bemidji State Park in developing demonstration gardens which use only native species. Several youth participated in installation of the native species demonstration gardens.

Benton County

21 active MG
1 intern
670 volunteer hrs.
184 education hrs.

Emerald Ash Borer was the theme for the Master Gardener display and handouts at Benton County Fair. They conducted a 4 day plant clinic during fair.

Benton County Master Gardeners sponsor a Vegetable Challenge with 92 4-H members and a container planting contest for 4-H clubs for display at county fair.

Master Gardeners cooperated with Tree Trust for full day hands-on training and tree planting at Rice Elementary School. They have assisted with planning and installing landscape at Heritage Building.

Seminars conducted by Master Gardeners on shrub and tree care, spring perennial care and color in the garden attracted nearly 100 participants.

Blue Earth County

23 active MG
0 interns
914 volunteer hrs.
206 education hrs.

Minnesota River Valley Master Gardeners answered question and distributed rain garden information at the Clean Water Partnership meeting in Lake Crystal. They consulted with people who recently installed a rain garden and gave out information to those interested in getting one started. Presentations on rain gardens were also conducted in Le Sueur County.

Master Gardeners have worked on several projects to education about and promote horticulture with special audiences. They assisted nursing home residents with planting container gardens. They work with 20 mentally challenged individuals at MRCI in Mankato on starting seeds and plant care. They have now developed a year round gardening program at MRCI.

Minnesota River Valley Master Gardeners host a "Spring Alive" horticulture seminar attended by 150. They taught basic gardening techniques and explained the services Extension provides for gardening help and support.

Master Gardeners conduct information booths weekly at a local farmers market and hosted booths at the Blue Earth and Le Sueur county fairs. This year it focused on invasive plants and tree diseases. Master Gardeners also provided information on Emerald Ash Borer.

Master Gardeners worked directly on the City of Mankato's "Parks and Green Space Committee" to offer solutions to saving our green spaces, reducing labor and energy with proper horticulture techniques.

Carlton County

18 active MG
2 interns
882 volunteer hrs.
266 education hrs.

Master Gardeners conducted a rain garden class attended by 27 county residents.

Carlton County Master Gardeners have worked on a number of projects in partnership with local organizations. They partnered with two nursing homes to assist them in designing accessible sites for work on horticulture projects at the nursing homes. A Master Gardener obtained a grant for senior and handicapped access design and implementation of raised beds for a nursing home. They partnered with Woodland Council Advisors to teach about tree planting and care in an Arbor Day community function for the county's 4th graders. The event concluded with the students planting red pine seedlings. Master Gardeners also partner with Fond du Lac Reservation community garden.

A Master Gardener works with the Extension Nutrition Educator to conduct a summer camp educating youth on the connection between growing and selecting healthy food and nutrition.

Master Gardeners conduct monthly educational classes for the public, January through April, in conjunction with Master Gardener meetings. Each class draws approximately 40 participants. They also run "Ask a Master Gardener" booths at county fair, Arbor Day festival and a Wal Mart garden center.

Carver/Scott County

80 active MG
16 interns
4,913 volunteer hrs.
1,479 education hrs.

Rain garden education was a popular focus for Carver/Scott Master Gardeners in 2007 – both receiving and conducting training. In conjunction with Scott SWCD and Metro ASWCD, a training for 21 Master Gardeners and 9 citizens was conducted. Following training, Master Gardeners taught a rain garden class to 5 citizens, worked with US Fish and Wildlife to design and plant a rain garden at a Carver county nature center, consulted with a Hamburg school to identify areas on the grounds for rain gardens and development of typical native environments. Master Gardeners assisted Scott SWCD staff by answering 73 consumer tree questions over a day and a half at their annual Tree Days.

Carver/Scott Master Gardeners received a $10,000 Community Powers Grant for composting education. We worked with Carver County Environmental Services to develop a standing composting demonstration and comparison of several types of compost bins, located at the county recycling facility in Chaska. During the year the group sponsored and taught several composting events.

Thirty-nine of our members received in-depth diagnostic training this year, and went on to staff our help desks at Cologne or Prior Lake, where we reached 684 people. They fielded another 175 calls to our Yard & Garden Line. Every Sunday April – October Master Gardeners staff the Arboretum answer booth, this year reaching 750 people.

Master Gardeners continue to develop their Demonstration and Teaching Gardens at Scott County Fairgrounds. This year they added a children's playhouse, paved area, and irrigation. They staff Q&A booths and conduct twice-daily tours of the demonstration gardens during all five days of both county fairs. These demonstration gardens are planned, planted, and maintained by our members, and are an important teaching tool for the program.

Outreach to youth is another focus of programs. Master Gardeners taught 9 days of outdoor 5th and 6th grade field day education in both counties. Our Plant Station teaches plant structure by concentrating on food from plants, and utilizes a fun bingo game. Over 1800 students are reached in these events, with only very positive evaluations and comments from the participating teachers. Other youth programming includes: Directed tree planting teams involving 270 5th grade from Savage and Minnewashta, began a monthly children program at a community garden; and, assisted two Eagle Scouts in developing community gardens for special audiences,

Master Gardeners led the landscaping efforts for a Habitat for Humanity twinhome in Savage. Master Gardeners also assist with several

Carver/Scott continued from page 7)

garden projects for senior homes and a residence for disabled individuals. There they are training staff and families to assist with the ongoing maintenance of gardens.

Master Gardeners reached 215 people through Q&A booths at several community events and festivals including the two-day home & garden Expo in Shakopee, the Prior Lake Fall Festival, Cologne Glad Day, Excelsior Apple Day, Chanhassen Arbor Day, and Carver County Health Fair. They organized and staffed one of four sites for the annual Scott County City to Country Tour. Volunteers provided tree care information and conducted tours of a tree farm reaching 140 people.

Through teaching classes, Master Gardeners brought horticulture education to over 1000 residents. They reached another 1100 serving as tour guides at the Arboretum and Como Park. The annual horticulture day, Garden Fever, reached 175 participants. Master Gardeners also filmed, edited, and released several new "Master Your Garden" TV Shows for local cable television.

Master Gardeners plant and maintain an organic demonstration plot and make themselves available to participants for pest trouble-shooting at a community garden in Chanhassen. They also worked to develop a new community garden with the City of New Prague.

Chippewa County

13 active MG
0 interns
558 volunteer hrs.
218 education hrs.

Chippewa County Master Gardeners write a weekly garden column from March 1 through October for 3 local newspapers. They also organize garden and farm crop exhibits in the Horticulture Building during the Chippewa County Fair. They use the fair to answer gardening questions from the public.

Over 30 County Master Gardener programs host Horticulture Education Days. Most average about 125 participants. Otter Tail County's two events drew 950 total attendees in 2007.

Chisago county

20 active MG
2 interns
1,103 volunteer hrs.
189 education hrs.

Chisago County Master Gardeners provide horticulture education and information through a variety of venues, a Monday Night Plant Clinic from May-September (approx. 19/week), the Lindstrom Farmers Market (169 contacts), and a phone line (725 calls). Master Gardeners also host information booths at Chisago Lakes Home Show, Almelund Threshing Show and Chisago County Fair

Bad weather resulted in cancellation of the 2007 Spring Gardening Bonanza, but a successful series of 12 gardening classes reached 350. In addition, 12 classes were presented at local garden clubs.

An educational speaker is brought in for the first hour of each monthly Master Gardener meeting and the public is invited to attend at no charge. We did this February-October with an average of 21 people at each session.

News releases are written and published weekly in 5 local papers.

Clay County

4 active MG
3 interns
339 volunteer hrs.
58 education hrs.

Clay County Master Gardener's provided technical assistance to River Keeper's by coordinating volunteers for the Living Lab (land on the Red River that is leased by River Keeper's and used for demonstration, research and educational purposes), aided in research and plant ID.

Master Gardeners partnered with Habitat for Humanity to help landscape one new home. Master Gardeners provided assistance with placement, planting and maintenance of landscape plants.

Master Gardeners partnered with Clay County Extension to provide educational assistance to community gardeners. They worked with eighteen participants, over 50 percent of whom are new immigrants with varying degrees of gardening background.

Master Gardeners answer phone calls at the county office three times a week during April through October. Approximately 350 phone calls were answered by Master Gardeners.

Master Gardeners organized and coordinated the annual 'How Does Your Garden Grow?' horticulture day attended by 125 people.

Master Gardeners adopted a large flower bed in front of the Clay County Court House located in Moorhead. Master Gardeners prepared the soil, planted several varieties of bedding plants, and provided needed maintenance throughout the growing season. They await the display of blooms from several hundred bulbs planted in the fall. In addition to providing a service to the county, it serves as a project that builds relationship among the growing Master Gardener group.

Cook County

12 active MG
0 interns
344 volunteer hrs.
99 education hrs.

Rain garden education was incorporated into Cook County Master Gardeners' landscaping design class.

Master Gardeners host horticulture information booths at Cook County Fair, West End Garden Club and Grand Marais Garden Club events. They also partner with the local Cook County Farmer and Craft Market in the summer to answer horticulture questions.

Cook County Master Gardeners worked on planting projects with 15 students at the Great Expectations Charter School. They plan to further this connection next year.

This year's popular garden tour included one of the experimental perennial gardens maintained by one of our master gardeners for Dr. Neil Anderson, University of Minnesota horticulturist.

Clearwater County

8 active MG
0 interns
333 volunteer hrs.
75 education hrs.

Clearwater County Master Gardeners host an annual "Spring Wake-Up" Conference providing horticulture education to 125 participants. The Master Gardeners also host an educational booth at county fair and taught 4-H youth about growing both flowers and vegetables in hanging baskets.

Master Gardeners Make an Impact -

Tackling Invasive and Noxious Weeds in a New Way

Washington County Master Gardeners were up for the challenge of working in a non-traditional way for a Master Gardener program. They worked on a contract with the County to address a growing concern of stakeholders about the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. They proposed a localized education plan.

Without a good localized resource for noxious weed identification, Master Gardeners enlisted an Extension weed specialist to assist them. They created a new Extension publication that, while designed for invasive and noxious weeds prevalent in Washington County, has utility for most counties in the state. The publication features pictures and succinct identification and control information.

Master Gardeners taught classes on the topic in an effort to get homeowners actively involved in controlling noxious and invasive species on their property. They even conducted weed walks to provide hands-on identification. The new publication was distributed widely across the county. Invasive and noxious weed identification and control was featured at county fair.

Crow Wing County

27 active MG
29 interns
2,227 volunteer hrs.
483 education hrs.

Crow Wing County Master Gardeners have had an extensive focus on environmental education, particularly on water quality and rain garden education. They assisted in establishing rain gardens at public sites that serve as a demonstration for public education. They highlight the following projects:

- Rain garden at Northland Arboretum – planting session and maintenance.
- Rain gardens by Judicial Center – planting session
- Partnered with the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd to offer educational materials on rain gardens and native plants.
- Partnered for the first time with the Crow Wing County Parks Department to create and distribute educational materials on rain gardens and native plants.
- Partnered for the first time with Brainerd Parks and Recreation Department for the beautification project of Gregory Park in Brainerd.
- Conducted educational workshops on "Mulching", "Rain Harvesting", "Composting", "Rain Gardens"

Crow Wing County Master Gardeners have also partnered for the first time with the Brainerd Public Library to offer a series of public gardening presentations. They have also created partnerships to deliver horticulture education with Kid's Kountry Agricultural Learning Center, Woodland Good Samaritan Village in Brainerd, and Bethany Good Samaritan Village in Brainerd

Master Gardeners organized and conduct another successful annual Garden EXPO horticulture day.

Master Gardeners conduct the "Weekly Weeders" program at Northland Arboretum in Brainerd. They have been instrumental in leading a development project with Pelican Wood Cemetery and Nature Trail.

Dakota County

120 active MG
10 interns
8,536 volunteer hrs.
2,371 education hrs.

The Dakota County Master Gardeners taught several classes for the county's Environmental Education Program in 2007. They included a presentation on best management practices using limited or no chemicals in the vegetable garden, gardening to attract wildlife, and sustainable gardens and lawns. All classes introduced students to Extension's resources, from the web site to the Yard and Garden Line.

Dakota County Master Gardeners use 5 composting teaching displays at the Master Gardener Education and Research Display Garden at UMore Park.

As part of our "Tuesday Evenings in the Garden" classes at the Master Gardener Education and Research Display Garden at UMore Park we held "Buckthorn Die!" The class taught plant identification, methods of clearing this invasive pest and rejuvenating woodlands after buckthorn eradication. The class was held on our Tree Trail, developed by Master Gardeners and Tree Care Advisors.

Dakota Kids Junior Master Gardener Camp celebrated its 5th season this year with the addition of irrigation to the children's individual gardening plots. In past years, watering was very difficult with numerous visits made by the campers and parents to keep the gardens in good condition. The irrigation proved invaluable with the extended heat and drought of 2007. The campers chose plants and seeds for their own gardens and learned how to amend the soil, dig, plant and grow. Each Master Gardener involved has 2 campers that they teach each week. This year the camp integrated a special needs camper into the program. Junior Master Gardeners bring a portion of their vegetables and flowers they grow to area food shelves. *(continued on page 10)*

Dakota County continued from page 9)

Dakota County Master Gardeners are involved in horticultural therapy at the Dakota Communities group homes for developmentally challenged young adults. They have designed plantings and taught staff and clients how to plant and maintain the sensory stimulating gardens. In addition, a guided tour was given to the group's governing board in hopes of designing a tour for the Dakota Communities residents next season.

Hundreds of pounds of vegetables grown by Master Gardeners in our State Master Gardener Seed Trials were picked, cleaned and given to Neighbors, Inc., a non profit food shelf in South St. Paul. Produce was also used in the Extension Nutrition program for seniors. The program teaches principles of balanced nutrition and provides fresh vegetables and recipes for preparing them.

Dakota County Master Gardeners held bi-monthly Plant Health Diagnostic Clinics and one special clinic during the open house at the Master Gardener Education and Research Display Garden. The open house brought nearly 2,000 visitors to the site and many gardening questions to our Plant Health Care Diagnostics booth. Tours at the open house featured our State Master Gardener Seed Trials, the Ball Seed Trials and our Dakota County Master Gardener research trials. Tours and presentations by research and Extension faculty also drew crowds of visitors and exposed them to the University of Minnesota programs.

New at the Master Gardener Education and Research Display Garden at UMore Park:
Labeling machine – after 7 years of trying different solutions we now can make labels for all plants in the garden.
Donor Recognition – Inscribed rocks have been placed in the garden honoring those local companies who have made our garden possible.
Magazine- "Living the Country Life" magazine featured one of our Junior Master Gardeners and a Master Gardener on its cover in August. The feature article of this national niche publication was very flattering for Extension and our program.
New Gardens- REE David Zlesak brought the national Earthkind Rose research and the Rosa Setigera research to the garden. The Blueberry Garden is being created for 2008 and 2 new U of M tree releases have been added, along with 24 hyacinth lilacs, 12 pre-release maples and 34 weigelas. An Edible garden was added in 2007, displaying information on tips for growing edibles in the garden.
Boy Scout Eagle Project- The troop donated time and materials and installed much needed posts with signs at each garden. These informational signs have the name of each garden, the purpose, interesting facts and a plant list.
Weed Control- Better mulch and weed control methods help make this year's crop of thistle, pigweed and dandelions smaller and more manageable.
Additional Irrigation- Additional irrigation proved invaluable during the heat and drought of summer 2007.
"Tuesday Evenings in the Garden" – With increased marketing and more available brochures, the classes have increased enrollment.
Plant Sale- An aggressive email marketing campaign assisted in making our Plant Sale the most profitable. The addition of our new Plant Nursery where we grow extra plants for the sale has added greatly to our numbers of plants available for sale.

Faribault County

6 active
2 interns
685 volunteer hrs.
147 education hrs.

Faribault County Master Gardeners have undertaken considerable project work involving rain gardens. They revamped the rain garden at the Green Giant Park rest area along Interstate 90. They added plants to the existing rain garden at Parker Oaks Care Center. The garden is used by physical therapists to evaluate recuperating resident's ability to do yard care after going home. Short term residents and long term residents care for plants along the sidewalks.

Two Master Gardener along with the Minnesota Lake City Garden Club met with DNR to map out the erosion problems around a DNR man made lake. They cleaned up buckthorn this fall and plan a future rain garden installation.

Master Gardeners are assisting the City of Blue Earth in developing a new 30 acre Nature Park, given by an elderly gardener. To date they have cleared buckthorn and plan to install one garden honoring the donor this spring.

Master Gardeners conducted a Junior Master Gardener program with 23 youth.

Fillmore County

5 active MG
0 interns
155 volunteer hrs.
52 education hrs.

Fillmore County Master Gardeners received a State Master Gardener Program Grant to support the purchase of materials, including a worm colony, to demonstrate composting techniques at a countywide youth field day sponsored together with the local Soil and Water Conservation District. With nearly 150 students participating, the organizers hope to reach over 100 households. The Master Gardener leading the project is a retired teacher who said, "I think this project will help many people of Fillmore County to begin composting, not only to get the end product to nourish their gardens, but also to reduce the amount of garbage that is needlessly buried in the landfill."

Master Gardeners host an educational booth at county fair.

1977 Master Gardener™ 2007
Growing since 1977
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
30 Years of Master Gardener Teaching

Special 30th Anniversary Master Garden Logo

Goodhue County

20 active MG
2 interns
951 volunteer hrs.
188 education hrs.

Goodhue County Master Gardeners planted a rain garden by a downtown parking lot where the water had previously run directly into the storm sewer. The garden became a demonstration site and example used in presentations on rain gardens to local groups.

The Goodhue County Master Gardeners have a close relationship with the Goodhue County Horticultural Society and together worked with other community members to create an America in Bloom committee and become affiliated with this national program. Red Wing entered the AIB competition for the first time this year and not only won the award for their city population size, but also the overall Environmental Awareness award for all population groups.

Master Gardeners speak to groups around the county on a variety of subjects including "Attracting Hummingbirds," "Favorite Public Gardens," "Building a Pond or Other Water Feature," and "Attracting Birds to Your Backyard." They provide horticulture advice at a display garden at the county fair. They added new "Ask a Master Gardener" booths at the Red Wing and Wanamingo Farmer's Markets.

A Goodhue County Master Gardener presented to a graduate class on Environmental & Health Policy at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The Master Gardener spoke on BioMass renewable fuels from prairie grasses and the Renewable Energy Standard that passed the MN Legislature in January, 2007.

Grant County

6 active MG
0 interns
87 volunteer hrs.
54 education hrs.

Grant County Master Gardeners were involved with Grant County Soil & Water to build a model rain garden for the community. A Master Gardener created a brochure for the public on rain garden construction and benefits. This will be an ongoing project .

A Master Gardener teaches 4-H members basic horticulture at a county project day.

Master Gardeners were instrumental in teaching and assisting other volunteers in planning and planting for a Main Street beautification project in Elbow Lake. They also helped 4-H and other groups design, prepare and maintain an ongoing beautification project at a new ATV park.

Hennepin County

230 active MG
30 interns
12,100 volunteer hrs.
4,662 education hrs.

Hennepin County Master Gardeners support the work of Metro Blooms, a Twin Cities area nonprofit. Seventy-five Master Gardeners received training on rain gardens from Metro Blooms, including theory, design elements, plant selection and installation. Master Gardeners were then present at 27 workshops where county residents brought their rain garden plan. Master Gardeners provided 413 hours of service with 265 county residents participating.

Ten Master Gardeners were stationed at 8 Minneapolis Park & Recreation Earth Day Celebrations, providing 102 county residents with information on sustainable planting, Minnesota native plants, composting and the effects of run-off.

Our program also supported the work of Great River Greening, a nonprofit that restores valuable and endangered natural areas and open spaces in stewardship of the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix river valleys and their watersheds. Six Master Gardener instructed 152 individuals (57 adults; 95 youth) in restorative plantings along the Mississippi River and its watershed district.

We partnered with Habitat for Humanity, overseeing the landscaping and education of program participants with plant selection, planting, and sustainability/maintenance of their plantings. Twenty-six Master Gardeners worked with the organization, providing over 337 hours of service to 7 new home owners.

Outreach to schools occurs in many ways in Hennepin County. In 2007, 69 Master Gardener provided 816 hours of service to over 7598 youth in our county. One of our biggest sources of youth contact comes from the Curriculum and Resources Program. This organization connects teachers with community volunteers for the school districts in the West Metro. Educational presentations included: "Spiders," "Butterfly Gardening," "Planting Seeds," and "Pond Plants."

We continued our work with the County Home School, a facility for juvenile offenders, providing education and assistance to gardens on the premises.

Members of a gardening club at a Minneapolis Public Housing high-rise in the Cedar/Riverside area requested assistance from Master Gardeners. A Master Gardener met with the group, presented, answered questions, and consulted on gardening areas, providing feedback and suggestions for the 2008 gardening season. Thirty-five individuals attended the session; 25 were from diverse communities; all were low-income.

Our plant information booths at garden centers, farmers markets and the county fair reached 6,205 county residents.

Master Gardeners partnered with a large community service collaboration that took place at Cityview School on Minneapolis' north side. Eight Master Gardeners, plus their coordinator, supervised over 350 community volunteers in landscaping and plantings around the school. This was a collaboration between the Hands On Twin Cities Network, The Home Depot, The Toro Company , Best Buy, Price Waterhouse Coopers, The University of St. Thomas, North Hennepin Community College, Beacons Summer Program at Cityview, Folwell Middle School Community Education Program, ACES (Athletes Committed to Educating Students), The McKinley Neighborhood Association, the Neighborhood Involvement Program (NIP) other local organizations. A Master Gardener designed the landscape plan, others educated community volunteers about why plants were chosen (most were native, draught tolerant and considered "tough plants") They instructed volunteers on how to plant them correctly.

Master Gardeners Recognized for Total Career Volunteer Hours during the 2007 State Conference

15,000 hours
Leonard Gloeb (Ramsey)

4,000 hours
Jaclyn Smith (Carver/Scott)
Ardella Triebenbach (Becker)

also

5 Master Gardeners for 2,000 hours each
22 Master Gardeners for 1,000 hours each

Houston County

5 active MG
1 intern
375 volunteer hrs.
42 education hrs.

Houston County Master Gardeners sponsor a Giant Pumpkin and Sunflower Contest in the fall. 4-H entries must be presented with a journal about the growth and care of the pumpkin or sunflower. Several prizes are awarded based on size and one category recognizes decorated pumpkins.

Master Gardeners assist in promoting the Caledonia Farmer's Market and host education booths there and at the county fair.

Master Gardeners received a grant to support a program for "Join Hands Day". Together with 4-H youth they prepare planters for the county fairgrounds and develop planters to give to elderly residents and to families of service men and women.

Hubbard County

11 active MG
0 interns
395 volunteer hrs.
175 education hrs.

Hubbard County Master Gardeners have focused projects on education and eradication of poisonous plants. They conducted a poisonous plants identification experience for 200 students at a school health fair.

Partnering with a local lakescaping business, Master Gardeners instructed 19 lakeshore homeowners on using native plant material to prevent shoreline erosion. Master Gardeners also conducted class on pondless water gardens and selecting plants for tough dry sites.

Master Gardeners work on several youth gardening projects, like teaching 4-Hers and participants of a Child Advocacy Group about basic gardening techniques. They reached out to teach a bulb class with special needs youth and conducted a gardening class for a stroke support organization.

Continuing a five-year project, Hubbard County Master Gardeners teach and coach 125 elementary students about native plants and assist them in developing a school prairie with native grasses. They assist elementary teachers by using grow labs for students to germinate native plants in the fall.

Hubbard County Master Gardeners conduct a weekly yard and garden hotline in spring and summer. Master Gardeners also conducted class on pondless water gardens and selecting plants for tough dry sites.

Isanti County

31 active MG
9 interns
1,848 volunteer hrs.
309 education hrs.

Isanti Master Gardeners incorporated two sessions on rain gardens and one on backyard composting at their annual "Burst into Spring" Horticulture Day. A theme for the event focused on gardening for a sustainable future. They also promoted Earth Day at a nearby community college as well as collected used plant containers for recycling.

Master Gardeners collaborated in projects that built community capacity through partnerships. They engaged local boy scouts and the local Rotary to revitalize a section of a city park and worked with the county history center to create an heirloom vegetable display garden. They assisted a local school in planning an onsite teaching garden.

In 2007 Isanti County shared in hosting state core course training and in semi-annual regional Master Gardener meetings. They promote the Master Gardener program through a float in the local rodeo parade and booths in the Government Center, the Isanti Home Show and several other events.

The program received a state program grant that assisted in an equipment purchase which allows Master Gardener to better deliver horticulture education through classes and provides greater mobility and access to resources at booths and at the weekly farmer's market clinic they host in Cambridge. They responded to 110 direct contact questions at the Extension office and responded to numerous call through voice mail system.

Kanabec County

22 active MG
9 interns
1,574 volunteer hrs.
569 education hrs.

Master Gardeners participated in two rain garden construction projects. They assisted in selecting and acquiring plants, designing the garden, educating volunteers, planting, solving drainage problems, and weeding.

Master Gardeners are involved with several youth teaching projects. They engaged youth in planting and maintaining a Discovery Garden at the county fairgrounds. They assisted Trailview School in using a grant for a vegetable garden project at the school. That included planning, supervising building of raised beds and soil preparation. The Junior Master Gardener curriculum is used here and in projects working with another school, with 4-H groups

Master Gardeners provided hands-on education for students in Mora High School's Career Center (for special needs students) and Agriculture classes in their summer project, "Heavenly Care." The project involved planting and caring for 21 grave sites at Oakwood Cemetery in Mora. They assisted with outreach, helped students make gardening carts, and assisted in selecting appropriate gardening tools.

Master Gardeners taught a class on "Keeping Healthy in Your Garden" for Kanabec Hospital staff. They also trained and assisted elderly residents with gardens at their residential facilities or at their own homes.

Sixty-one people participated in a Kanabec Master Gardener Program sponsored 5-day tour to Wisconsin and Michigan that focused on fruit production.

Master Gardeners provide information and answer gardening questions at a variety of venues, including the county fair and open houses at local garden centers. They provide weekly taped radio shows, along with Master Gardener from other PICKM counties, from spring through fall.

Lake County

4 active MG
2 interns
348 volunteer hrs.
41 education hrs.

Over 80 people participated in the 2nd Annual North Shore Mystery Garden Tour, a three-hour evening tour that featured four local gardens. The participants loved the opportunity to tour the gardens, make new friends, and learn about new research-based information from the University of Minnesota Extension program.

Master Gardeners participated in the Extension Booth display at the Lake County Fair to showcase horticulture information from the University of Minnesota. They also staffed an information booth (complete with the Master Gardener Banner) at nine weekly Two Harbors Community Band Concerts. Master

(Lake County continued from page 12)
Gardeners also share information in individual consultations.

A Russian tomato trial project was organized and led by a Master Gardener to determine which varieties do best in Lake County. Seedlings from five varieties were provided to five other Master Gardener and yield/taste comparisons were shared at the end of the growing season.

Master Gardeners contribute to the Northeast Minnesota Master Gardener Regional Newsletter, a seasonal publication highlighting educational projects and research.

Lake of the Woods County

5 active MG
2 interns
703 volunteer hrs.
192 education hrs.

NW MN Master Gardeners (Northern Tier Group) were asked to collaborate with the committee/landscape architect involved in the new Warroad Senior Living Center being built by Marvin Windows. LOW Master Gardeners provided landscaping ideas and suggestions for design and planting pertinent to our Zone 3. It is anticipated that there will be therapeutic and interactive horticulture areas for the residents, and activities that will also bring all ages of the community together.

Master Gardeners are looking into the possibility of forming a Jr Master Gardener program in conjunction with 4H.

The major endeavor of the LOW Master Gardeners in 2007 was the Summer Garden Tour "Real Gardens for Real People." This successful event featured five gardens of various styles, including gardens of three Master Gardener members. Approximately 70 people purchased collector quality ticket/brochures for this well attended educational event. Extensive effort in numerous capacities by Master Gardener Members was evident.

News coverage was excellent, with local papers printing articles submitted by LOW Master Gardener Reporter. Each article featured a paragraph promoting the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener program. Articles published in two papers totaled 504 running inches of news coverage. In addition, periodic articles were submitted to approximately 50 Northern Minnesota newspapers.

McLeod County

18 active MG
0 interns
1,061 volunteer hrs.
348 education hrs.

Two Master Gardeners serve on a committee for the City of Hutchinson owned Creekside Soils Composting Facility. We encourage the use of the products locally and brokered to offer free bags of potting soil to all 100 participants that attend the McLeod County Horticultural Day. We surveyed the group to learn more about their compost knowledge.

Other environmental projects include work with Girl Scouts on a river clean up program and work with a local park on eradication of invasive species – buckthorn, garlic mustard, and mullen.

McLeod County Master Gardeners assisted with a school environmental day informing over 200 youth about composting and seed planting. All participants received a free packet of sunflower seeds with directions.

Master Gardeners hosted their annual Junior Master Gardener Day Camp for 50 youth. This year the camp focused on birds Youth built bird houses and learned about many of the birds in the area. Master Gardeners have also assisted with Project Wild and Project Learning Tree workshops for youth.

Approximately 100 adults attended the 5th year of the McLeod County Master Gardener Horticulture Day. A survey was conducted to evaluate the workshops' goals- to increase knowledge about dahlia's, to maximize plant potential through soil and fertilizer, to introduce new proven winner plants varieties, and to learn small trees for the landscape. The results indicated that many attending would try planting dahlia's, think more about amending soil, and were more likely to plant one of the recommended small trees.

Meeker County

14 active MG
0 interns
543 volunteer hrs.
141 education hrs.

Master Gardeners led a shoreline management class intended to increase knowledge of the participants relating to shoreline management, encourage use of native plant buffers, and decrease fertilizer and pesticide use along lakeshore property. A Master Gardener distributed shoreline management information to 25 people in a lakeshore association. Another Master Gardeners partnered with a lake improvement association to make recommendations for landscaping around the new deck on the south beach.

Meeker County Master Gardeners teach a multi-session youth garden project through Litchfield Community Education. One Master Gardener assisted a nursing home in developing an accessible garden area for residents.

The Master Gardeners write a weekly news release and tape radio programs for the local media outlets to play during the growing season.

Master Gardeners wrote this publication in commemoration of the 30th Anniversary.

Morrison County

8 active MG
2 interns
510 volunteer hrs.
131 education hrs.

Morrison County Master Gardeners provided education through a booth at "Senior Fun Day" in Little Falls. Over 250 citizens attended the day focused on senior citizen health and hobbies. Master Gardener tables on "Fun With Gourds" and "Gardening in Raised Beds" prompted a variety of gardening questions and comments.

Morrison County Master Gardeners hosted their 6th annual bus tour, this year to gardens in Douglas County and the WCROC in Morris. It has become in such demand that people starting calling the Extension Office in May to reserve a seat on the bus (without knowing a destination).

Morrison County Master Gardeners hosted a Horticulture Day in Motley in the spring. They also host horticulture information and demonstration booths at county fair and at the MnDot Employee Appreciation Day at Camp Ripley, an event where they taught workshops on landscaping and pruning.

Murray County

11 active MG
0 interns
108 volunteer hrs.
175 education hrs.

Murray County Master Gardeners conduct an Arbor Day program, teaching about trees and tree care, then distributed 75 trees to Murray County Central first grader students and their teachers.

Murray County Master Gardeners conducted the 5th annual summer garden tour attended by 120 participants. Master Gardeners at each host garden site help answer many consumer questions about plants and landscape they are witnessing.

Developed and maintain two community gardens where the community can appreciate many different types of plants including annual, perennials, and grasses.

Olmsted County

63 active MG
5 interns
4,084 volunteer hrs.
921 education hrs.

Olmsted Master Gardeners are involved in a number of ongoing projects with an environmental stewardship focus. They include:
Cascade Meadow Science Center Project - the development of a Community Environmental Education Center that features a wet land restoration and a variety of horticulture educational sites.
Rain Gardens - teaching about the benefits of rain gardens through community education classes and community projects.
Green Roof Project - using a model of a green roof for display and teaching purposes.
Buckthorn Control Education - Master Gardeners take a role in educating the public on how to identify and control buckthorn in their "Buckthorn Busters!" program. They incorporate this effort in their work at Mayowood and Quarry Hill. At Mayowood, they provide community service and train other volunteers for the upkeep of public gardens at this historic Rochester site.

Olmsted County Master Gardeners work in partnership with other groups to provide opportunity to populations traditionally not served by Extension. These projects include:
Habitat for Humanity - Master Gardeners serve as consultants for the new homeowners during the planning, installation, and maintenance of their new landscapes.
Community Corrections Gardens - This project involves a 1 acre vegetable garden located at the Boy Scout Council camp. Master Gardeners provide instruction and work with DFO Community Corrections staff and community work service clients to plant, care for and harvest the garden.
SEMCIL - Master Gardeners educate physically and mentally handicapped individuals by growing a garden in handicapped accessible raised bed gardens. They use the vegetables and herbs they grow in their summer nutrition classes.

Olmsted Master Gardeners cooperate with and consult with several county departments on landscaping project and the Government Center and with Olmsted County Public Health.

Olmsted Master Gardeners provide a wealth of horticulture educational information through a variety of venues:
Farmers Market -Master Gardeners answer questions weekly (Saturday mornings) from May through October at the Farmer's Market. Hosting the booth is an opportunity to be visible to the community, provide information and services, and answer a variety of questions.
Radio - A 5 minute pre-recorded radio spot that is done weekly.
Community Education/Group Presentations – Master Gardeners provided a variety of classes and presentations.
County Fair Booth - Master Gardeners design and staff an educational booth at the Olmsted County Fair. This has consistently been our best opportunity for visibility to the community.
Public Relations – Olmsted Master Gardeners started a project to provide a consistent resource for the Olmsted Master Gardener's to have media coverage for their various endeavors. Those participating have opportunity to write articles for newspapers and local magazines, be a voice on radio programs, and even be seen on television time to time.

Minnesota Master Gardeners contributed nearly $2.1 million in volunteer service during 2007. Their combined contribution of 106,549 hours is equivalent to 51.23 FTE staff positions.

(based on Independent Sector's nationally recognized estimate for volunteer equivalent value of $19.51 per hour,.)

Otter Tail County – East and West

41 WOT active MG
13 EOT active MG
0 interns
3,746 volunteer hrs.
329 education hrs.

Master Gardeners organized, in partnership with the Battle Lake Area Friends & Neighbors group, a clean up project at six public sites on Battle Lake. Community members learned a variety of best gardening practices working together with Master Gardeners. In Fergus Falls, Master Gardeners are involved in assisting the city in flower plantings in the downtown River Walk area. They also assist in plantings at the Veteran's Home.

Master Gardeners worked in advisory and hands-on capacity with Adams' Elementary school students and teachers on designing and coordinating installation of a rain garden on school property. Master Gardeners also conducted an annual Junior Garden Day at a local elementary school teaching a variety of horticulture topics to 4-H members and the public.

Master Gardeners host a popular weekly one-hour horticulture radio call in show each Saturday through the growing season. They also write gardening columns for area newspapers, the Lake and Home Magazine and a regional Master Gardener newsletter.

Otter Tail Master Gardeners have regular Extension office hours during the growing season for plant clinic and gardening questions. This allows residents to bring plant samples in and have someone available to answer question in person. Master Gardeners also host information booths at county fairs, Otter Tail County Truck Rodeo and the International Cultural Festival. Teaching and public education classes are a high priority as well.

Master Gardeners host two very popular Horticulture Days in Otter Tail County. The event in Perham drew 350 attendees. The Underwood event drew 600 participants from as far away as North and South Dakota.

East and West Otter Tail Master Gardeners hosted the very successful 2007 State Master Gardener Conference in Fergus Falls in September.

Pennington County

29 active MG
0 interns
1,248 volunteer hrs.
268 education hrs.

Pennington Master Gardeners have worked together with the City of Thief River Falls on several projects. They provide Emerald Ash Borer information to the Park and Recreation Department that in turn was used to educate about use of firewood at the city campground. They designed landscape planting for a city building and then trained Eagle Scouts who are taking on the project.

Master Gardeners have an ongoing project in developing and assisting with Challenger Elementary School Prairie. The prairie is used is a teaching lab for 3-5 grade science. Third grade studies plant classification, prairie habitat, and measure air and pond water temperature; 4th grade studies the prairie ecosystem and pond water. Fifth grade has food webs, food chains and pond water. A Master Gardener who teaches at the school educates students about the impact of root structure and depth on flooding. Students ID native grasses and wildflowers. They harvest seeds in the fall, calculating the cost benefit of harvest vs. purchasing the seed. They plant the seeds in November and use the exercise to discuss plant germination needs.

Master Gardeners engage in several other youth education projects with various schools and community partners. At one school they used hands-on garden activities to teach about carbon dioxide and oxygen. They partnered with area agricultural organizations to host an Operation Pizza day teaching about ag-related products. Master Gardeners taught about vegetable production.

Master Gardeners conduct programs with special needs audiences. Specially designed gardens have been developed for a violence intervention project site that provides a safe and learning environment for children. A variety of gardens and handicapped accessible planters were developed at the Occupational Development Center for client use. At an housing site for elderly and disabled, a Master Gardener helped residents develop gardens and taught them to maintain the plantings.

Pine County

16 active MG
18 interns
1,734 volunteer hrs.
330 education hrs.

Six Pine County Master Gardeners where trained by an Extension Educator on rain gardens. They then assisted in installing 1,500 water tolerant plants into two large demonstration rain gardens at a business in Sandstone. The gardens are being used by the Educator as a research and demonstration site on water runoff and rain garden impact. One Master Gardener followed up with a newspaper column on rain gardens. The regular, bi-weekly Master Gardener written column that is published in four county newspapers was also used to discuss eradication of the invasive species, buckthorn. Master Gardeners also use broadcast media to educate on a weekly "Garden View" radio program on a local station.

At the request of the Pine County Commissioners, eighteen Master Gardeners and the coordinator contributed 160 hours to assist in landscaping the new Pine County Courthouse in Pine City. They evaluated the landscape plan, researched University of Minnesota Extension recommendations on disease, salt and winter hardiness of potential plants and developed an analysis report. Following redesign of the project by the landscape architect, Master Gardeners assisted in preparation of the site and supervised sentence-to-serve crews to plant 840 perennials, ornamental grasses and shrubs. They continue to assist the building supervisor and sentence-to-serve crews in maintaining the plantings. They are also involved in evaluating landscaping methods, winter hardiness and plant salt tolerance.

Working with MnDOT, the City of Sandstone and the Sandstone prison, Master Gardeners assisted in planning and planted 800 trees and shrubs on one of the 35W exits at Sandstone.

Pine County Master Gardeners and interns have a focus on youth programs. They developed a Junior Master Gardener summer program and use the curriculum in classroom teaching at several elementary schools. One Master Gardener taught 34 5th and 6th grade student about horticulture and engaged students in nine different school day outdoor work sessions to learn and care for the school grounds.

(Pine County continued on page 16)

(Pine County Continued from page 15)

Pine County Master Gardeners plan to focus projects on elderly populations in the county. In preparation, they have interviewed nursing home directors and researched horticulture therapy information.

Attendance at the 5th annual Master Gardener Garden Expo topped 150. An evaluation of the event showed 81% gave the Expo the highest rating of "Very Satisfied."

Pine County Master Gardeners assisted in hosting 2007 Core Course in Mora. Eighteen new interns completed training. A pizza party for the regular March meeting was used to welcome them into the county program.

Pine County initiated a monthly newsletter this year. Regular events and projects continue successfully including county fair booth, answering horticulture questions, and partnering in the PICKM regional Master Gardener meetings. They conducted a successful annual plant sale. The funds raised provide staff development scholarships for each Master Gardener and a $75 scholarship for each Master Gardener.

Grants From Calendar Sales

In 2007, $5000 in grant funds were available to local Master Gardener programs. The funds came from sales of the popular Garden Calendar.

Ten grants, roughly $500 each, were awarded to:

Carlton County – Adaptive Gardening Project
Crow Wing County – Northland Arboretum Project
Dakota County – Dakota County Plant Sale Project
Faribault County – Steinberg Park Project
Fillmore County – Household Composting Project
Isanti County – Upgrade of Presentation Technology
Itasca County – Itasca County Gardening Conference
Ramsey County – Midway Rain Garden Project
Sherburne County – Butterfly and Bee Garden Project
Washington County – Crosswinds International Story Garden

Ramsey County Master Gardener helped students at Farnsworth Elementary School create a rain garden on their school grounds. *(photo by Sage Passi and Linda Neilson)*

Renville County

11 active MG
0 interns
454 volunteer hrs.
80 education hrs.

Master Gardeners conducted a project two afternoons at the County Fair making Origami Emerald Ash Borers in a project to educate the youth how to identify the insect. They also hosted a Master Gardener booth that featured succulent plants and answered many horticulture questions.

Renville County Master Gardeners publish a monthly email "Garden Gatherings" educational newsletter that now has readers beyond Minnesota. Examples of featured articles in 2007 include: corn gluten meal for organic weed control, managing household pests and control measures for apple maggot.

Ramsey County

116 active MG
10 interns
6,752 volunteer hrs.
2,396 education hrs.

Ramsey County Master Gardeners provided educational materials to nearly 2000 people using the County yard waste compost sites. They taught another 105 residents through composting classes.

Over 1000 St. Paul and Maplewood/Oakdale/North St. Paul Public School students participated in Master Gardener led classes on rain gardens and native plants. Projects ranged from teacher training, classroom speakers, to actual work with student on installing gardens.

Ramsey Master Gardeners partnered with Habitat for Humanity to work with eight new homeowners to design and install landscape plantings. They also enjoyed working on landscaping projects with Hmong and African immigrants at five apartment units provided by Habitat for Humanity.

Ramsey County Master Gardener conduct programs specifically to reach populations traditionally under served by Extension. They were successful in reaching over 1,090 people. They taught container and salsa gardening classes in Spanish, conducted numerous horticulture therapy projects with youth the Children's Hospital. Master Gardeners also wrote several articles on diversity and gardening and posted several garden resources on the county Master Gardener website that are in Spanish. There web site is located at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/mastergardener/publications.htm.

In addition to other more traditional Master Gardener projects undertaken, Ramsey County Master Gardeners reached over 4,500 residents through on-site plant clinics, "Ask a Master Gardener" information tables (like the popular booth conducted each Saturday at the St. Paul Farmer's Market), and through the county "Ask a Master Gardener" phone line.

Rice County

17 active MG
0 interns
663 volunteer hrs.
346 education hrs.

This year 150 people attended the Rice County Master Gardener's Horticulture Day at St. Olaf College. Classes and featured prominent horticulture speakers who shared best practices and education on several horticulture topics.

Education on composting is a focus with Rice County Master Gardeners. Several workshops on composting and an information booth entitled "Beautiful Compost" at the Rice County Fair were primary methods to promote techniques and the benefits of composting.

Five Master Gardeners received training, then taught Northfield residents about identification and proper removal of buckthorn. This effort was part of the Northfield "Buckthorn Menace" project which ended in a buckthorn sculpture created at Carlton College by a local artist.

Working with a partnering forestry group, Master Gardeners distributed 1,500 trees to county residents as part of an Arbor Day Tree Give-Away.

Master Gardeners provide horticulture and environmental information at a local farmer's market. They have been briefed and are geared up to educate the community about the threat of Emerald Ash Borer.

Two Master Gardeners hosted a booth for a women's health fair on using gardening to reduce stress.

Rock County

4 active MG
0 interns
177 volunteer hrs.
23 education hrs.

Rock County Master Gardeners continue their development of a Healing Garden at Sanford Luverne Hospital. They work with the Sanford Hospital Healing Garden committee to coordinate the planning and execution of the healing garden plan, including speaking to groups, lining up volunteers, planting, etc. Master Gardeners hosted an ice cream social with 4-H and Big Buddies that raised $1000 for the project. They engaged a local school shop class to build benches for the garden. They've also engaged local school classes to preparing and maintaining the garden.

Rock County Master Gardeners provided education about the Emerald Ash Borer at the Luverne Home & Garden Show as well as provided education information for the Land Management Office.

Master Gardeners organized and hosted an annual Garden Tour in June that is attended by over 120 people. They used the event distribute a packet of Extension information, including information about the safe use of pesticides. They also answer horticulture questions through the Extension office and at their annual plant sale.

Master Gardeners combine education and service in assisting Habitat for Humanity landscape the new home in Luverne. They conducted a "buckets of flowers" planting project with disabled at Rock County Opportunities Council and helped them exhibit the planters at the Rock County Fair. With 4-H and Big Buddies they planted flower gardens at the local nursing home. During the year they joined Big Buddies in helping the Extension Nutrition Education Assistant teach science and health nutrition class to youth.

St. Louis County

38 active MG
23 interns
2,299 volunteer hrs.
838 education hrs.

Master Gardeners participated in two evening workshop sessions where rain barrels were constructed as a part of the St. Louis County Extension's "Minimizing Water Run-Off Project." Sixty people were in attendance and 50 barrels were constructed and installed. Rain gardens, green roofs and grassy pavers are other components of this program.

Master Gardeners assisted with the Extension Office, City of Duluth and Duluth School district to re-establish the Lester Park White Pine Forest which burned in 1918. Classroom instruction was included along with a white pine planting project. After the 1st year 99 % of all seedlings have survived.

Master Gardeners have assisted the Extension Office with establishing an educational landscape at Stowe Environmental School in Gary New-Duluth.

Master Gardeners have assisted the Courage Center in establishing and maintaining wheel chair accessible raised bed gardens.

Master Gardeners have assisted with the establishment of two butterfly gardeners, one at Hartley Nature Center and the other at the Benedictine center.

Master Gardeners have assisted the Extension Office in a Family Gardening and Nutrition program which uses fruit and vegetable gardening as a means to encourage better diets, exercise, nutrition and family interaction. One hundred people have participated in this program. Master Gardeners also worked with Extension to determine inner city barriers to food vegetable production. An initial needs assessment was completed with follow up planned in 2008.

Master Gardeners helped establishment of a vegetable garden at the St. Louis County camp to provide fresh salad greens and vegetables for camp participants.

Master Gardeners have participated in a Gardening for Seniors program which included growing 500 coleus for distribution at Duluth Senior Expo, October 2007. Several hundred seniors were surveyed to determine the educational needs and desires of this underserved audience.

Master Gardeners assisted Extension with vegetable variety evaluations at two locations, Duluth and Floodwood. Data was presented at this year's Extension fall educational conference, "Tomato-fest", attended by 150 people.

Master Gardeners participate in the public television horticultural program, "Great Gardening". They hosted a 2007 Spring Gardening Extravaganza with 300 people in attendance.

All St Louis County Master Gardeners are encouraged to participate in a project of significance which impacts the quality of life in St. Louis County. Those programs include: "Water Management and the Environment", "Horticulture and Human Health", "Gardening for People with Disabilities", "White Pine Project", "Senior Gardening,", and "Stowe School Environmental Landscaping Project"

Of Counties Reporting:

10 write regular newspaper articles

7 conduct garden tours

6 produce cable or public television shows

Stearns County

121 active MG
5 interns
5,563 volunteer hrs.
1,302 education hrs.

Stearns County Master Gardeners are working on a project to plan and assist with installations of rain gardens at the site of the new Munsinger Clemens Gardens greenhouse as part of requirement for DNR variance. Master Gardeners are also involved in an extensive landscaping process for Whitney Senior Center. Master Gardeners have planned and helped install exterior gardens and have presented a plan for an interior Japanese Garden to the Whitney Center Advisory Board.

Master Gardeners continue a successful Latino Community Gardening project at Melrose. MN. It is directed by a Master Gardener who is assisted with fund raising endeavors by 8-10 additional Master Gardeners.

Master Gardeners did a repeat seed presentation session for about 125 4th grade students participating in the "Science Rocks" school program.

Develop a "Using Pesticides Safely" handbook and display board for St. Cloud School District Wellness Fair and for County Fair Booth. 300 handbooks were given out; the display board viewed by 500+.

Master Gardeners have emphasized horticulture and nutrition in developing a "Put a Rainbow on Your Plate" display board along with the Extension Nutrition Education Assistant. The display has been used for District 742 Wellness Fair and will be used for County Fair Booth in 2008. They handed out "Guide to the Healthful Benefits of Colored Fruits and Vegetables" to about 250 participants in the wellness fair.

Stearns County Master Gardeners continue to organize and host a popular Horticulture Education Day attracting 225 participants. They conduct a series of Gardening Knowledge for Free workshops, attracting 73 participants. They also host a very popular Rose Education Day.

Master Gardeners staff the Extension horticulture office one day a week and responded to about 600 telephone calls and requests for information. They conduct a three day plant clinic at Stearns County Fair.

Thank You Otter Tail County Master Gardeners

for hosting the

2007 State Master Gardener Conference.

Job well done!

Steele County

19 active MG
2 interns
604 volunteer hrs.
133 education hrs.

Steele County Master Gardeners focused on a theme of "Green Living" for their annual county fair booth. The booth featured displays on indoor plants as agents to improve air quality, composting with red worms, alternative insect and disease control and use of rain gardens to capture runoff.

Master Gardeners worked in partnership with Steele County Detention Center to conduct a gardening program with inmates. The County received a state award for this innovative approach for working with inmates. The garden produced over 1000 pumpkins, vegetables raised in the garden were used in the Center's kitchen, and much surplus produce was donated to Steele County Food Shelf and a local nursing home. Master Gardeners added a small cut flower garden and involved women at the Center in flower arranging classes.

Master Gardeners were the featured program for the County's Persons with Disabilities Program in 2007. Sixty young adult participants engaged in activities that centered on "gardening with the five senses."

Master Gardeners worked with 4-H youth on project challenges where they taught youth about container gardening and growing pumpkins. Several categories of awards were presented.

Master Gardeners were featured on local cable TV and have been involved in several demonstration gardens and community planting service projects.

Traverse County

2 active MG
0 interns
60 volunteer hrs.
12 education hrs.

Traverse County Master Gardeners partnered with Community Education and reached 69 people with education about on lawn care, container gardening, plant selection, pruning, plant and soil science, wildlife and proper tree planting.

Master Gardeners partnered with 4H to offer Junior Master Gardener (JMG) classes and other youth gardening activities. The Master Gardeners assisted the young gardeners to develop/maintain a community display gardens. They helped JMG youth create a 4-H performance about seeds.

Traverse County Master Gardeners coordinated a bus tour to Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Apple Research Program. Along with the tour the 48 Participants received additional information on Extension programming and horticulture information as handouts.

Master Gardeners write weekly articles for three local newspapers. They have featured articles on buckthorn removal and control and composting.

Washington County

95 active MG
6 interns
6,982 volunteer hrs.
1,881 education hrs.

In a contractual agreement with Washington County, Master Gardener education programs in 2007 centered on storm water management, rain gardens and the eradication of noxious weeds and invasive species.

Washington County Master Gardeners conducted eight rain garden classes. They partnered with Ramsey-Washington Watershed on a four-part rain garden project with nearly 100 students at an inter-district school that culminates in the installation of a rain garden. In partnership with the Washington Conservation District, one Master Gardener created a rain garden on her property next to a river that will be used as a demonstration site. Master Gardeners also conduct rain garden information sessions using the four different rain gardens they designed and installed in partnership with the Washington Conservation District at a new building on the Washington County Fairgrounds.

Master Gardeners were a key resource in buckthorn eradication. The sponsored two "Buckthorn Busting" events, wrote informational articles published in print and on the web, and set up a demonstration along the route of a popular garden tour that pointed out the results of buckthorn removal on one property and no removal on an adjacent property.

Master Gardeners conducted four compost education classes for youth. They also partnered with 4-H and schools to create five Junior Master Gardener afterschool groups.

Washington County Master Gardeners present a full line of horticulture education classes through community education departments and speaking engagements. They answer hundreds of questions via "Ask a Master Gardener" booths and phone line. Master Gardeners also conduct a plant clinic in conjunction with Ramsey County Master Gardeners.

Watonwan County

6 active MG
0 interns
379 volunteer hrs.
37 education hrs.

Watonwan Master Gardeners provide horticulture information through a variety of venues. Two Master Gardeners write garden columns for two local papers. Master Gardeners also conduct information booths at the county fair and farmer's market and answer questions that come into the Extension office.

A Master Gardener conducts a youth garden program with Spanish-speaking young gardeners. Another Master Gardener oversees flower beds at a local nursing home and assists residents in raising African violets.

Master Gardeners conduct both a spring and fall plant exchange. They also host horticulture programs in the spring in St. James.

Winona County

35 active MG
0 interns
1,342 volunteer hrs.
367 education hrs.

Winona County Master Gardeners use Twin Bluffs Rest Area Project to teach and demonstrate the importance of protecting native environment. They conduct maintenance and clean up on the site that is primarily native grasses and wildflowers. They anticipate future development of a butterfly way station.

For the past twelve years Winona County Master Gardeners have partnered with the Winona Women's Resource Center, a domestic violence agency, to offer the Youth Garden Project. A local church donates the garden space. Approximately 36 children participated in Youth Garden. The Youth Garden helps children heal and cope with the stress, take pride in maintaining their plots and increases knowledge of gardening.

Sharing Emerald Ash Borer information was a focus of this year's county fair booth. In addition, Master Gardeners answer consumer horticulture questions at the booth and during the spring at several plant clinics.

Special Thanks to all Minnesota Master Gardener Volunteers for a great 2007

You are the BEST!

University of Minnesota Extension
Master Gardener Program
3675 Arboretum Drive
Chaska, MN 55318
952.443.1442

Julie Weisenhorn,
State Director

David Moen,
State Program Manager

Linda Wasem,
Executive Administrative Assistant

www..mg.umn.edu