

Impact of Maury County TN Master Gardeners in 2016

Impact: In 2016, 22 Master Gardeners contributed 1742.7 hours of community service at an average of 78 hrs.per member. Nine Master Gardener's contributed over 50 hours of service with 2 contributing more than 100. At the rate of \$23.56 per hour, based on the average hourly value of volunteer time according to the Independent Sector, Maury County Master Gardeners contributed \$41,058.00 worth of time and labor into county projects. This is a major contribution to Maury County and to the marketing of the University of Tennessee Master Gardener program. The 22 members that recorded travel miles averaged 313 miles per person for a total of 13,528 miles saving a total of \$6,899.00 (.51 per mile). This assumes that the Master gardeners turning in hours are complete with their records. I know from conversations that hours and miles are completed that are not recorded or turned in, thus the actual contributions and savings are more than recorded.

Twenty interns completed the UT Master Gardener course indicating they had increased their knowledge and skill level in the areas offered during the 2016 course.

- Nineteen evaluations were returned after the course. 100% of respondents planned to become certified Master Gardeners by completing the volunteer requirements.
- 95% understood more about UT Extension and 100% indicated that they would like to be a member of the Maury Co. Master Gardener Association.
- Class presentations were rated good to excellent (3.6 average) 4=excellent/ 3=good) by class members and included pesticides, botany, native plants, soils, backyard wildlife, landscape design, diseases, bee/insects, herbaceous ornamentals, small/tree fruits, vegetable gardening, lawns and food preservation.
- More than 68% of participants increased their knowledge in 10 of the 12 subjects taught with up to 68% increasing their confidence in the ability to apply what was learned and up to 32% actually having the skill level to practice what was taught.
- 84% of participants learned about proper plant selection and planting to save time and money in the landscape.
- 84% of participants learned how to apply fertilizers and pesticides safely.
- 74% of participants learned how to conserve and protect water quality in the landscape
- 84% of participants learned how to take a soil test and interpret the results.
- 74% of the participants increased their knowledge about fire ant management with 79% indicating they could use the two step method to manage them around their homes.
- 68% of participants learned to apply fewer fertilizers and pesticides as a result of understanding landscape best management practices.
- 68% of participants learned to implement water wise practices to conserve and protect water quality
- 79% of participants learned the best management practices related to pruning and tree maintenance
- 74% of participants can use soil test results to properly amend the soil.

- March-The MCMG's had a promotional booth at a new Lawn and Garden Show conducted by Farm Credit at the Maury Co. Park. Over 400 attended the 2 day event and were able to talk with MG's and learn about the program.
- May-The MCMG annual plant sale. Income is used to provide scholarships and conduct programming making the program self-sufficient financially.
- July-MCMG Assoc. provided half scholarships to needy Maury Co 4-H campers thus making a financial impact on those families.
- Aug-MCMG's help sell tickets for a fundraiser at the Maury Co. Senior Citizen Center where they have their monthly meetings. Funds from tickets sales help the Sr. Center with operating expenses.
- Aug MCMG's set up a promotional booth at the Maury Co. Fair and also volunteer to take in and judge products for the fair.

Comments from Interns about the 2016 MG Class: Fine Course; Loved the class and have learned so much. Thank You; Good Course-Well worth the investment of time.