

## Impact of Maury County TN Master Gardeners in 2017

**Impact:** In 2017, 40 Master Gardeners participated in 3,173.9 hours of community service and continuing education averaging of 79.35 hrs. per member. Twenty seven Master Gardener's contributed 50 or more hours of service with 11 contributing more than 100 and one exceeded 200 hrs for the year. At the rate of \$24.14 per hour, based on the average hourly value of volunteer time according to the Independent Sector, Maury County Master Gardeners contributed \$76,617.94 worth of time, labor and training into county projects. This is a major contribution to Maury County and to the marketing of the University of Tennessee Master Gardener program. The 40 members that recorded travel miles averaged 238.21 miles per person for a total of 18,683 miles saving a total of \$9528.00 (.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.

In 2017 a Master Gardener class was not conducted in Maury Co. This was due to an inadequate number signed up by the deadline, however the County Association makes quite an impact on a yearly basis. Throughout the year monthly meetings are held including an educational speaker/program on specific topics where those in attendance have indicated that they increased both knowledge and skill on numerous topics. Average attendance runs at 35. The Maury Co. MG's participated in several noteworthy events and projects.

- March-The MCMG's had a promotional/educational booth at the Lawn and Garden Show conducted/sponsored by Farm Credit at the Maury Co. Park. Those attending the 2 day event were able to learn about the UT Extension Master Gardener program. They can also get answers to horticulture questions.
- May-The MCMG annual plant sale. Income is used to provide scholarships and conduct programming making the program self-sufficient financially.
- June-MCMG Assoc. provided 2 half scholarships to needy Maury Co 4-H campers thus making a financial impact on those families.
- 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.
- The MCMG program conducts officer/business and association meeting throughout the year.
  - January-Business Meeting/MCMG President Deena Trimble
  - February-Attracting birds/Wild Birds Unlimited, Kent Hiday
  - March-Blueberries/Whispering Hope Gardens, Vicki Wilburn
  - April-Trees/Bartlett Tree Experts, Travis Morgan
  - September-Ferns/Fernridge Farms, Eleanor Craig
  - October-Plants that grow well in TN/Holman Nurseries, Lucas Holeman
  - November-Succulents and Fairy Gardens/ Williamson Co MG, Ann Harvey
  - December-Christmas party