

GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Learn

Serve

Grow



Spotlight: Gardening with Youth

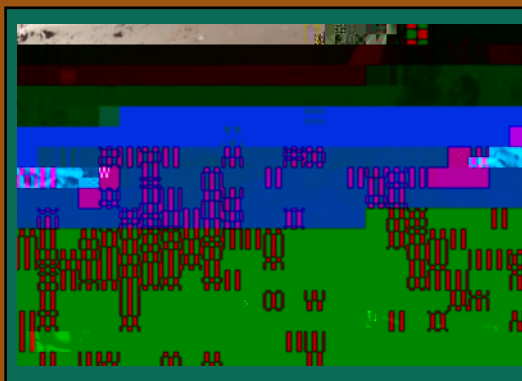
The Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program in Chattooga County began in 2012 as a result of passion for youth! Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs), along with Extension, offered local schools an opportunity for supplemental classroom instruction. Chattooga County schools received this invitation with appreciation and support, and now Chattooga County MGEVs serve third-through-fifth graders at four elementary schools on a monthly and as-needed basis.

This JMG program is unique in that MGEVs work in the classroom directly with an assigned teacher, usually a science teacher, to enhance current curriculum and standards. Two of the schools have permanent gardens that are managed cooperatively with volunteers, JMG participants, and school staff. One of the gardens was developed by the Chattooga County MGEV Program with a grant received by Lowe's Toolbox for Education. UGA Extension also had the pleasure of giving a grant for an outdoor classroom - another great education tool!

Students benefit from horticulture-based learning and from having a "guest instructor" in the form of a caring community member. Teachers have a hands-on lesson to which they can refer as they pursue their standards. The school also has an opportunity to share the gardens with all students. Often, teachers from other disciplines and grades will use the gardens for teaching opportunities and special events. Having the opportunity to help expand ways for educators to teach is a true extension of Extension!

Through JMG, MGEVs have had a positive impact on many children. Students express pride about their school gardens and tell stories of what they plan to do at home.

Junior Master Gardener Program Served by MGEVs from Chattooga County



2015 Project Contributions:

Volunteer Hours: 108
In School Meetings: 23
Presentations and Workshops: 6

One fourth grader in the JMG program even dressed up like a MGEV for Career Day in 2015! MGEVs are touched and motivated by the curiosity and awe of young people.



The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia's citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.