Stokes County Extension Master Gardener

**Volunteer Handbook**





**Stokes County Cooperative Extension**

**Master Gardener\* Volunteer Handbook**

**Purpose**

This handbook has been created to provide Master Gardener Volunteers in Stokes

County a better understanding of the focus of Extension’s Master Gardener and

Consumer Horticulture education programs, to provide guidelines for volunteering in

the Master Gardener Program, to clarify the roles of the Master Gardener Program and

the Master Gardener Association, and to describe volunteer opportunities available for

Master Gardeners.

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\* The terms Master Gardener, Extension Master Gardener, Master Gardener Volunteer,

and North Carolina Master Gardener are registered service marks with the state of North Carolina.

*The Extension Master Gardener Program operates under the supervision and authority of NC*

*Cooperative Extension. NCCE is a branch of North Carolina State University / NC A&T State University and offers program opportunities to all people regardless of race, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, marital status, veteran’s status or sexual orientation.*

**North Carolina Cooperative Extension**

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program**

**Our Mission and Purpose**

*Helping Gardeners Put Knowledge to Work!*

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational program designed to

enhance public education in consumer horticulture by utilizing trained volunteers to

increase Extension’s capacity to reach a wider audience. Statewide, Master Gardeners

provide research based, non-biased, environmentally sound educational assistance to

the citizens of North Carolina concerning lawns, fruits, vegetables, trees, and

ornamentals. Master Gardeners are part of the volunteer staff of NC State University / NC A&T State University Cooperative Extension Service, working under the guidance and support of Extension Horticulture Agents and Extension organizational policies. Statewide, Master Gardeners are part of a network of over 3,000 volunteers working in 82 NC counties and the Cherokee Reservation!

**Our Focus**

As part of NC Cooperative Extension, the Master Gardener Volunteer Program

supports Extension’s mission to help people put knowledge to work for economic

prosperity, environmental stewardship, and an improved quality of life. Extension’s

programs are based on the issues and needs of NC’s communities and citizens and are

focused within the following five initiatives:

* Enhancing Agricultural, Forest, and Food Systems
* Developing Responsible Youth
* Strengthening and Sustaining Families
* Conserving and Improving the Environment and Natural Resources
* Building Quality Communities

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is dedicated to providing information and

educational assistance to our state’s citizens to help them conserve and improve our

environment and natural resources while caring for their home lawns, gardens, and

landscapes.

**Our Focus**

Our educational efforts are focused on providing information and teaching practices

that conserve water, protect water quality, prevent soil erosion, improve air quality,

reduce landscape waste, and protect wildlife. Some areas of focus

include:

**Conserving Water**

* Planting drought tolerant plants
* Watering efficiently
* Grouping plants by their water need (Waterwise Landscaping)
* Mulching

**Protecting Water Quality**

* Fertilizing appropriately, based on soil test results
* Creating rain gardens to capture stormwater runoff
* Establishing plant buffers along the waterfront
* Managing weed, insect and disease problems responsibly
* Planting pest resistant plants
* Using least toxic pesticides when possible

**Preventing Soil Erosion**

* Establishing healthy vegetation by improving soil quality
* Mulching

**Improving Air Quality**

* Planting trees and caring for them properly
* Reducing energy use through landscape plantings

**Reducing Landscape Waste**

* Composting
* Grasscycling—allowing grass clippings to break down on the lawn
* Planting slow growing varieties that will not require frequent pruning

**Protecting Wildlife**

* Providing habitat
* Planting a diversity of species

**Home Food Production**

* Growing fruits, vegetables, and herbs

**Stokes County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association**

**Purpose**

Many county Master Gardener Programs choose to establish a Master Gardener

Association to enhance the ability of Master Gardeners to be effective volunteers.

Master Gardener Associations focus on providing social activities for Master

Gardeners, enhancing communication between EMGVs, fund raising to support the EMGV and Consumer Horticulture Programs, and providing additional educational

opportunities for volunteers.

**Membership**

Membership in the Association is voluntary—you do not have to be a member of the

Master Gardener Association to be a Master Gardener Volunteer. Dues may be

collected as part of membership. A person who has completed the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer training program is eligible for membership. Newly qualified Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are eligible for membership immediately upon completion of their core training. The Master Gardener Association elects a board of officers and adopts bylaws to guide their operation.

**Public Perception**

As an organization whose membership comes from Extensionʹs volunteer staff, the

EMGV Association should consider how they are perceived by the public and the funding partners of Cooperative Extension. Cooperative Extension is part of both state and county government—actions taken by Extension’s paid and volunteer staff reflect

upon both NCSU / NC A&T SU and Stokes County Government. If the EMGV Association is perceived as a special interest garden club or civic group that is subsidized by tax dollars, the entire MG program and funding for Cooperative Extension could be jeopardized.

**Liability**

A Master Gardener Volunteer (as an agent of NC State University / NC A&T State University) is covered by University liability policies when performing volunteer service provided he/she is following a job description and is adhering to Extension Master Gardener Program policies. A Master Gardener Association and its members, when participating in Association events, are not covered under University liability policies.

**Master Gardener Association**

**and**

**Master Gardener Program Compared**

 **EMGV ASSOCIATION EMGV PROGRAM**

**Purpose**

* A supplementary component of the MG Program
* Enhances ability of MG’s to be effective volunteers
* Provides MG’s with opportunities for social activities, fund raising, communication, and additional education
* Part of Extension’s Consumer Horticulture Program to provide nonbiased, research based information to the public
* Enhances delivery of Extension Program by extending the reach of Extension Agents

**Members and Leadership**

* Membership determined by MGA bylaws
* May collect dues for membership
* Leadership: Elected officers as specified in bylaws
* The Master Gardener Program is open to all Stokes County residents
* Members of the MG Program must sign a recertification agreement each year and volunteer at least 20 hours to remain active
* Leadership: Horticulture Agent

**Funds**

* Can set up account to be managed by MG Association Board
* Funds used to enhance MG Program and Consumer Horticulture Program
* May transfer funds to support program development as requested, following approval of Board and membership
* Dues cannot be collected, other than training fees
* Funds accrued by agent are entered into county budget and appropriated to horticulture program line item
* Funds at agent’s discretion, used to enhance Consumer Horticulture Program and provide resources

**Funds**

Funds received or raised by the Master Gardener Program and the Association are

kept separate. Training material fees collected from participates in the MG Program

are public sector funds and are dispersed through a Cooperative Extension account.

Dues collected or funds raised by the Association are private sector funds and are

managed by Association officers. An Extension Agent cannot serve as the treasurer of

the MG Association or be authorized to withdraw funds from the Association bank

account.

*Funds generated by the Stokes County EMGV Program and the Stokes County EMGV Association are dispersed through one of two accounts as follows:*

**Stokes County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association Account**

The Stokes County EMGVA has established a checking account managed by the EMGVA board. Money raised from EMGVA fundraisers and events can be deposited directly into the EMGVA account to be spent according to the EMGVA bylaws. The EMGVA treasurer is responsible for depositing and dispensing funds from the account.

**Stokes County Cooperative Extension Budget**

**Horticulture Program Line Item**

Training fees collected for the EMGV Program are dispersed through the Stokes County

Cooperative Extension budget via a line item for the entire horticulture program.

Funds are used to provide supplies for EMGV training at the discretion of the Horticulture Agent.

**Requirements of the**

**Master Gardener Program**

**Use of the Master Gardener Title**

The title of Master Gardener or Master Gardener Volunteer can only be used by active

Master Gardeners participating in a Cooperative Extension activity or program. When

an individual ceases to be active in the EMGV Program (no longer volunteers at least 20

hours per year), their designation as Master Gardener ceases as well.

The EMGV title should only be used when doing unpaid volunteer work for Cooperative Extension. When speaking before a group on horticultural subjects, EMGVs can accept unsolicited reimbursement for expenses, small gifts (not cash), or donations to the Master Gardener Program. EMGV training and experience may be given as qualifications when seeking employment, however EMGV credentials should not be displayed by the employee or employer in a commercial or private business setting. EMGVs must not use their title in any form of advertisement. Giving implied University or Extension endorsement to any product or place of business is a violation of Extension policy.

**Definitions of Master Gardener Titles**

There are four titles used to designate Master Gardener status as follows:

* **Master Gardener Intern**—Someone enrolled in Master Gardener Training or still completing their first year of service (40 hours).
* **Active Master Gardener**—Someone who has graduated from Master Gardener Training (completed training and initial 40 hours of service), signed a recertification agreement and pledged to volunteer 20 hours of service that year.
* **Alumnus of the Master Gardener Program**—Individuals who are no longer active in the Master Gardener Program (former Master Gardeners) are referred to as Alumnus of the MG Program and may no longer use the title Master Gardener.
* **Inactive Status** (Sabbatical) ‐ If a MG feels extenuating circumstances (personal or family health, etc.) will prevent him/her from completing the required volunteer commitment for the coming year, a temporary leave of absence may be granted for one to two years. Inactive status will only be granted to volunteers in good standing who intend to return to active status. Requests for inactive status should be discussed with the Extension Horticulture Agent.

**Recertification**

Certification as a Master Gardener is valid for only one year and expires on December

31 of the year issued. A volunteer who has performed within the guidelines of the

certification agreement may be extended an invitation to renew for another year.

**Former Master Gardeners**

Individuals not renewing their certification to continue in the program should no

longer refer to themselves as a Master Gardener or any similar title that could be

perceived as being a representative of NC Cooperative Extension. Individuals may

keep their manual for personal use. No portions of the MG training manual may be

reproduced or used in developing non Extension materials or programs. Former

Master Gardeners should no longer wear their name badges in a public setting.

**Dismissal**

Volunteers can be dismissed based on misconduct or failure to perform duties in an

appropriate manner. Displays of discriminatory behavior, sexual harassment, alcohol

and/or drug use, or possession of a dangerous weapon while on the job will not be

tolerated and are grounds for immediate dismissal.

**Continuing Education**

All active Master Gardeners are encouraged to continue their education by attending

local, regional and statewide training workshops, sitting in on MG Training classes

or taking advantage of other research based educational opportunities.

**Master Gardener Program Advisory Committee**

In Extension, advisory committees are formed to provide agents with feedback and

suggestions for improvement of their programs. Advisory committees assist in

program planning, implementation and evaluation. Agents compare the recommendations made by their program’s advisory committee with available resources and with Extension’s mission, policies, and initiatives before deciding to implement them. The board of the Stokes County Master Gardener Association serves as the advisory committee for the Stokes County Master Gardener Program. All Master Gardeners are welcome to provide feedback and suggestions for improving the Master Gardener Program directly to the Extension Horticulture Agent or to EMGVA officers. The Extension Agent will take recommendations from the advisory council and individual EMGVs into account when making decisions about day to day activities and when setting long range goals for the MG Program.

**Responsibilities of Master Gardener Volunteers**

*In order to minimize liability and to clarify the roles and expectations of Master*

*Gardener Volunteers the following procedures should be followed\*:*

* Volunteers will perform their duties as representatives of NC State University / NC A&T State University, follow university policies, and work under the supervision of an NCSU / NC A&T employee.
* Volunteers will perform assigned duties without financial compensation.
* Volunteers are expected to work with other volunteers, paid staff and clientele in a professional manner.
* Volunteers are to provide unbiased, research based information consistent with NC State University / NC A&T State University recommendations.
* No recommendations or endorsements should be made of a particular product or place of business.
* Chemical pesticide recommendations must be restricted to only those in the NC Agricultural Chemicals Manual or recent Extension publications. Clients should be encouraged to read the pesticide labeling for instruction about application or dilution rates.
* Both chemical and cultural recommendations should be given so clientele can make an informed decision concerning pest management.
* Volunteers should not answer questions outside their expertise or training. This normally would include not answering questions concerning household pests, commercial horticulture, hazardous tree evaluation, medical or legal questions, and determining if a questionable plant or mushroom is edible.
* Printed materials (news articles, news releases, newsletters, leaflets) prepared by a volunteer must be reviewed and approved by the Extension agent.
* Requests for information by news media should be referred to the Extension Agent.
* Possible poisoning cases should be referred to the Carolina’s Poison Center (1‐800‐848‐6946).
* Volunteers should not make copies of copyrighted material for distribution without written permission of the copyright owner.
* Volunteers do not have the authority to sign contracts on behalf of Cooperative Extension or the EMG program.

*\* Taken from the Master Gardener Volunteer Recertification Agreement.*

**Volunteer Service**

**Service Hours**

The total of all hours given to the MG Program are known as service hours. Service

hours are broken into two categories with the following definitions:

 **Volunteer Hours**—hours volunteered toward MG Program projects and approved

volunteer activities (see below)

 **Educational Hours**—hours spent in initial MG Training and any advanced

training attended. This includes educational lectures given during MG

Association meetings.

Master Gardeners are asked to record all of their volunteer and educational hours. While **only volunteer hours count toward annual volunteer requirements**,

total service hours are used to calculate Master Gardener service records. Educational

hours do not count toward the initial 40 hr or continuing 20 hr volunteer commitment, but do count toward total service hours given, which are used to calculate volunteer recognition awards. NC Cooperative Extension gives recognition to volunteers who complete 5, 10, 15, or 20 years of service, as well as to those who contribute 500, 1000, 2500, 5000, 7500, and 10,000 hours of volunteer service during their careers.

**Volunteer Hours**

Active Master Gardeners are required to give a minimum of 20 volunteer hours each

year to maintain their active status. Master Gardener Interns must give 40 volunteer

hours within one year of completing EMGV training, though they do not have to wait

until they have completed all EMGV classes to begin volunteering. All EMGVs are encouraged to give more than the minimum required hours in any year! Greater involvement produces greater enjoyment and greater achievements for the entire program.

**Only approved volunteer activities can count as volunteer hours.** All service opportunities listed in this handbook will count as volunteer hours for the EMGV Program. Some activities not included in this handbook that provide public education may qualify as volunteer hours. Any activity not listed in this handbook must be approved by the Agent before being recorded for volunteer credit. Volunteer activities must be carried out in Stokes County unless pre‐approved by the Extension Agent. The primary criteria used to determine what counts as volunteer hours are:

* It is an Extension educational activity or is in support of an Extension educational activity.
* It is within the scope of the mission of Cooperative Extension
* It is in support of the operation of the MG Program.

EMGVs may receive credit for volunteer service given to an interagency project provided that Extension is a co‐sponsor of the project, the project has an educational objective in line with Extension’s mission, and MGs involved in the project are clearly recognized as representatives of NC Cooperative Extension and NC State University / NC A&T State University.

**Record Keeping**

Master Gardeners should enter their volunteer hours regularly on the EMGV Intranet,

**www.ncsugarden.com**. For EMGV’s without internet access, time sheets will be provided to record volunteer hours. Reporting your hours is an important way to keep track of your volunteer efforts and provide a record of the many ways the EMGV Program serves our community.

Please record the following information about each entry: date, activity (type of work/training), number of contacts, number of hours, travel time, any personal expenses, and miles driven.

Training, travel, and volunteer hours, mileage, and personal expenses are totaled for

annual program reports. Local and state government officials, who help fund Extension,

are very interested in how Extension uses tax dollars. Detailed volunteer records

that record all volunteer efforts are valuable for program documentation. Reporting

your efforts helps to ensure Extension receives the funding needed to continue to offer

the EMGV Program. Time sheets are also available from the Cooperative Extension office. Time sheets should be turned in to the horticulture agent on a monthly basis. Hours can be entered into the EMGV Intranet site immediately following each volunteer event or on a monthly or bi‐monthly basis.

*Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.*

*Author Unknown*

**Stokes County Master Gardener Program**

**Volunteer Activities**

**Stokes Teaching Gardens**

**Goal**

To establish and maintain demonstration landscapes in public areas throughout the

county that will provide a visual representation of the research based information we

strive to teach. These landscapes will exhibit recommended plant varieties for area

landscapes (based on site conditions—sun/shade, soil type, deer pressure, tolerant

of our climate, etc.), design ideas and techniques to enhance our environment (rain

gardens, waterwise landscaping, habitat gardens, etc.), and will demonstrate environmentally sound and scientifically correct horticultural practices (pruning, watering, etc.). The Teaching Gardens will also serve as learning labs for hands on training for Master Gardeners and the public, and as nurseries for plants to stock future gardens. Written materials available onsite, signage and plant labels will enable the public to learn from the demonstration gardens even when MG’s are not on hand to answer questions.

We currently have two demonstration gardens under development as part of the

Stokes Teaching Gardens: the landscape and demonstration garden at the Extension office in Danbury, and the SEEDS (Stokes Extension Educational Dirt Site) garden at King Recreations Acres in King. Decisions related to the development and

maintenance of each of these locations are made by the Community Garden Team

for that location with guidance and input from the Horticulture Agent. Development

of future sites will take place at the discretion of the Horticulture Agent, as volunteer

involvement increases.

**Volunteer Jobs**

**Garden Curator / Curator Team**

Garden curators will adopt a specific garden or specific area of a demonstration landscape and will work closely with the Horticulture Agent and Garden Team to develop and maintain their garden. Examples of specific gardens or areas of a landscape include a butterfly garden, vegetable garden, habitat garden, or a specific bed. An individual MG can serve as a curator for a specific garden or two or more MGs may decide to work together as a Curator Team to develop and maintain a garden. Garden Curators and Curator Teams will be responsible for developing their garden (design and planting) and keeping it maintained. Curators will need to be present at planned work days to guide other volunteers interested in helping with garden maintenance.

**Gardeners**

All Master Gardeners are welcome to be part of the development and maintenance of

the Stokes Teaching Gardens by participating in work days and/or weekly work

groups. Weekly work groups are scheduled at the beginning of each season for each

garden location. Master Gardeners participating in work days can expect to help with

mulching, weeding, planting, pruning, and other garden related activities.

**Public Outreach**

**Goal**

To provide Stokes County residents with timely, convenient opportunities to have their garden/lawn/landscape questions answered and to learn about environmentally sound horticultural topics. Master Gardeners will assist the Horticulture Agent with public outreach through a Speaker’s Bureau, ‘Ask a Master Gardener’ Clinics, and educational booths at local festivals, farmer’s markets, and other community events.

**Volunteer Jobs**

**Speakers Bureau ‐ Volunteer Speaker**

MGs wishing to serve as volunteer speakers will choose a topic of their interest that is

in line with the MG Program focus and prepare a presentation to give to garden/civic

clubs, at homeowner association meetings or as scheduled in local communities. MGs

can create their own presentation from scratch or adapt a presentation already

prepared by the Horticulture Agent. MGs may develop and present presentations

individually or as a team. Technical assistance and presentation equipment will be

provided by the Horticulture Agent. All presentations must be reviewed by the Agent

before being given to the public.

**Community Resource Person**

Master Gardeners may serve as Community Resource Persons by volunteering to

answer questions at ‘Ask a Master Gardener’ Clinics, local farmer’s markets, and area festivals. Resource persons will be responsible for handing out newsletters and leaflets, answering gardening questions (using provided reference materials when necessary), providing information on soil testing and the Master Gardener Program, and referring difficult questions to the Horticulture Agent. Master Gardeners may choose to specialize in one area (eg.— vegetables, lawn care, perennials, etc.) or develop a broad knowledge on many topics. MGs serving as Community Resource Persons should stay up to date on current pest problems and recommendations by reading the NC Pest News and other materials provided by the Horticulture Agent.

**Plant Clinic Coordinator**

Plant Clinic Coordinators will be responsible for scheduling plant clinics at a specific

location in the community (example: King Farmer’s Market), making sure all

necessary resources are available on the day of the clinic, scheduling volunteers to staff

the clinic, and keeping notes and following up with the Horticulture Agent. Coordinators will discuss possible dates of Plant Clinics with the Horticulture Agent before scheduling them, to ensure there are no conflicts with other events and so the Agent can assist with publicizing the Clinic.

**Youth Activities**

**Goal**

To provide Stokes County youth with opportunities to learn about plants, insects and

the environment and to gain gardening skills through participation in school enrichment and 4‐H activities. Working with the Horticulture and 4‐H Agents, Master Gardeners may sponsor Jr. Master Gardener (JMG) camps, a JMG 4‐H club, and offer

activities related to gardening and the environment in the classroom and during special events.

**Master Gardener School Outreach Program**

There are two options for EMGVs who enjoy working with young people in Stokes County. Garden mentors offer educational assistance to schools seeking to establish a school garden. Garden mentors will advise teachers, parents, and students on proper garden development, planting times, pest management, harvesting, and related garden activities. Junior Master Gardener Coordinators and team members will work closely with the 4‐H and Horticulture Agents to establish and maintain a JMG program in Stokes County using the official JMG curriculum

**Volunteer Jobs**

**School Outreach—Garden Mentor**

Master Gardeners interested in the hands on aspect of teaching kids about gardening

may wish to become a garden mentor. MGs volunteering in this capacity will provide educational assistance to teachers, parents, and students at schools wishing to establish a school garden. MGs will advise on soil testing, bed preparation, crop planting and harvesting times, pest management, and other aspects of growing a garden.

**Junior Master Gardener Coordinator/JMG Team**

The Junior Master Gardener Program is a nationwide 4‐H youth gardening program

with the mission of growing good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success and

service through a unique gardening education (find out more at www.jmgkids.us).

JMG training is modeled after MG training, with classes to cover a wide range of

topics. After completing JMG training, youth can continue their horticultural education

by joining a 4‐H club. The JMG Coordinator, or a group of MGs working together

as the JMG Team, will work closely with the 4‐H and Horticulture Agents to establish

a JMG program in Stokes County using the official JMG curriculum. This could

initially start out as a summer day camp or after school program. The Coordinator or

Team will organize activities and classes, coordinate volunteer involvement, and

oversee JMG training. A long term goal for the JMG program is the establishment of a

JMG 4‐H club with youth participating in state 4‐H horticultural judging competitions

**Projects**

**Goal**

Projects are designed to support the development of the MG program and consumer

horticulture education. Projects can be taken on individually or by two or three MGs

working together as a team. Specific projects identified by the Horticulture Agent are

listed below, though any ideas on additional projects that will help support the development of the MG Program and consumer horticulture education are welcome.

**Community Directory**

Create a directory of civic groups, garden clubs, community organizations, and home

owners associations in Stokes County, including the name and email/address/phone

number of their contact person. This directory will be used to publicize upcoming programs, including Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Training, plant sales, workshops, and youth activities.

**Pesticide Availability Survey**

Visit area garden centers and retailers to determine which products (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides) are available locally to homeowners. Information to be gathered

includes brand name, active ingredients, price and location. This information will be

used when making pest control recommendations to area residents.

**Frequently Asked Questions Database**

Survey area residents and the Horticulture Agent to find out

the most frequently asked questions on a specific topic (fruits

and vegetables, lawn care, landscape maintenance, etc). Put

together a database of questions with answers for the topic you

research (using resources provided by the Horticulture Agent).

This information will be used to provide training resources for

Master Gardeners and be posted online for public access.

**Other Opportunities**

**Photographer**

Master Gardeners who enjoy taking pictures and have a digital camera can serve as

photographers for the MG program. Photographers will be asked to take pictures at

events (such as the Plant Sale, Blueberry Festival, MG Graduation, etc) as well as to try

to capture images of specific plants, insects, or garden related items to be used in

powerpoint presentations or online. Photographers will save their images on CD’s and

give them to the Horticulture Agent to use as needed.

**Master Gardener Historian**

The Master Gardener Historian will keep records of MGA and MG Program activities,

keep a scrapbook of each year’s activities (pictures, flyers, newsletters, etc) and prepare

reports when needed based on these records.

**Master Gardener Training—Refreshment Committee**

The refreshment committee will be responsible for organizing the necessary supplies

and scheduling volunteers to provide refreshments during Master Gardener Training

(all costs will be reimbursed). A refreshment committee member will attend each class

to assist with set up and serving.

**Useful Links**

**Stokes County Cooperative Extension**

http://stokes.ces.ncsu.edu/

**North Carolina Cooperative Extension**

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/

**NCCE Consumer Horticulture**

http://www.ncstate‐plants.net

**NCCE Master Gardener Program**

(time sheets available here)

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/masgar/

**NC Cooperative Extension Service Foundation**

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/foundation/nccesf.html

**North Carolina Master Gardener Volunteer Association**

http://www.ncmastergardeners.org/

*This document prepared by Randy Fulk, Horticulture Extension Agent, Stokes County*

*Cooperative Extension.*

*Last updated November 26, 2014*

**You Might Be a**

**Master Gardener Volunteer If . . . .**

*Do any of these actual quotes from Master Gardeners around the country*

*Sound familiar?*

 You carry pruners, baggies, bottled water and paper towels in your vehicle, just in

case the opportunity for a ʺcuttingʺ arises…

 You know how many bags of fertilizer your car will hold.

 You take every single person who enters your house on aʺ garden tourʺ.

 Your vacation is based on which gardens and nurseries to visit.

 You donʹt have any dress shoes, just eight pairs of garden shoes.

 Your friends and family donʹt bother to call you on a nice day because they know

youʹre in the garden.

 You drive down the road wishing you could jump out and prune various trees you

drive by or eliminate the mulch volcanoes.

 You spend more money on plants than clothes.

 You have driven four hours to scout out a nursery that ended up not having what

you wanted, but spent a hundred dollars anyway.

 You consider “weed” to be a four‐letter word.

 You know 101 ways to kill a slug ‐ and recite them with joy in your voice.

 The fruit drawer in your fridge is full of seed packets.

 You carry photos of your garden in your wallet.

 You believe that a truck load of manure is a wonderful birthday present.

 Your neighbors no longer call the police when they see a filthy figure in baggy

clothes crouching over your window boxes.

 Your Christmas wish list contains items such as a chipper/shredder, a wheelbarrow,

landscaping timbers, gardening reference books, and gift certificates to local

garden centers.

 Composting is at the top of your weekly ‘Things To Do’ list.

 You’re on a first name basis with the staff at the local garden center.

 The most interesting and exciting thing on the planet to you is gardening and the

idea of saving, contributing to, and preserving the environment...because it is!

***Enjoy more or enter your own at:***

*http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/Responses/you\_might\_be.htm*