

Chatham County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program Information Session

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NCCE - Chatham County Center



**Extension
Master
Gardener**

NC State University
A&T State University
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Overview

- **Who are Extension Master Gardener Volunteers?**
- **How do I become one in Chatham County?**
 - Training
 - Application
- **What volunteer opportunities are there?**



**Extension
Master
Gardener**



Who Are Extension Master Gardeners?

- Life long learners
- Sustainable gardeners
- Educators and advisors
- Citizen scientists



Anyone interested in learning about science-based, sustainable gardening and willing to commit to an active volunteer program!

Who Are Extension Master Gardeners?

- **Trained volunteers**
- Part of their **county Extension staff**
- Representatives of **NC State University** and **Chatham County**



Extension Master Gardeners

Are **trained to find research-based information** and provide non-biased advice on behalf of Extension



Extension Master Gardeners

**Expand
Extension's
reach** into local
communities,
schools, and
neighborhoods



What is Cooperative Extension?

A nationwide network of

- Educators
- Researchers
- Volunteers

**Over 4,000
EMGs in NC,
95,000 nationwide!**



What is Cooperative Extension?

World's largest
non-formal
education network

- Established 1914,
Smith-Lever Act
- Funded through
Federal, state and
county funds



Practical, non-degree programs



Where is Cooperative Extension?

- Based within each state's **land grant university** system
- In NC, NCSU and NC A&T
- **In every county in NC**
 - 101 county centers!

**NC STATE
UNIVERSITY**



Our Mission: Helping You Grow!

- **We provide practical information you can trust**
- To help individuals, families and communities
- Gain knowledge and skills
- For economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, and improved quality of life



Since 1914, Helping You Grow:

Responsible Youth

- 4-H and youth leadership



Strong, Healthy and Safe Families

- Food and nutrition education, disaster preparedness



<http://www.theproducelady.org/>

Since 1914, Helping You Grow:

Profitable, Sustainable Farms and Forests

- Traditional and alternative crops and methods

Healthy Environment

- Best management practices to protect water quality



Since 1914, Helping You Grow:

Resilient, Life-sustaining Gardens and Landscapes

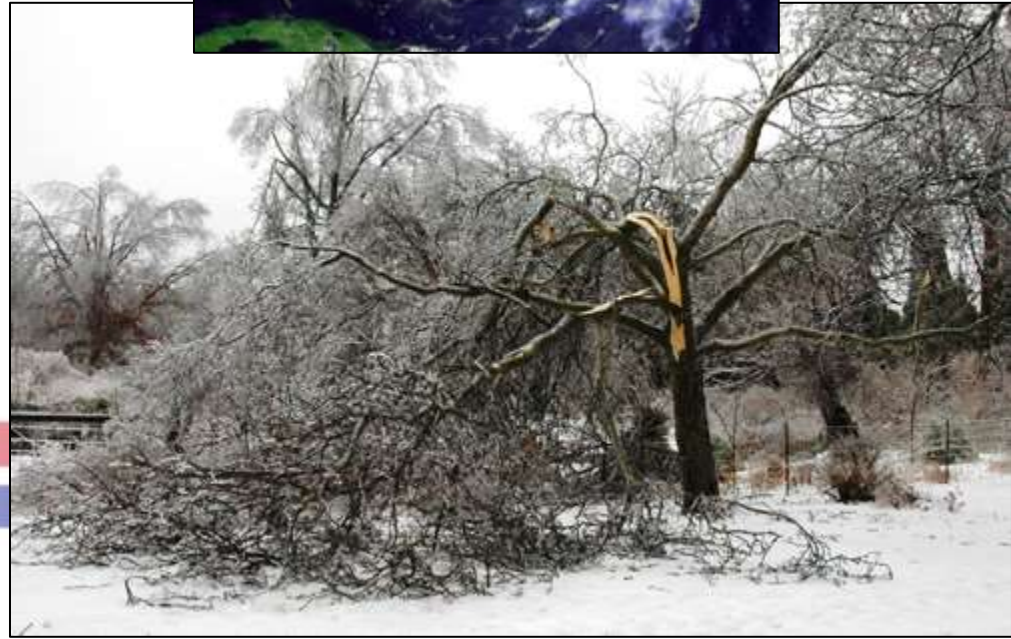
- Edibles, lawns and ornamentals
- Residential, community, and commercial sites



Gardens and Landscapes: Resilient

Capable of surviving local weather and pest related challenges:

- Drought
- Deluges
- Heat waves
- Ice storms
- Pests
- Diseases



Life Sustaining Landscapes

Nurture and shelter:

- People
- Pets and animals
- Pollinators
- Birds
- Beneficial insects
- Wildlife



How Do We Do This?

- Training Courses and Educational Classes
- Events: meetings, workshops, field days, tours
- Publications and Newsletters
- Personal Consultations
 - By phone, email, and office
- Websites and Online Resources
- Social Media



How Do We Do This?



Extension
Master
Gardener

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

With Volunteers!



Why Become an EMG?

- Take learning to the next level
- Work with fellow enthusiastic gardeners
- Give back to your community
- Spread sustainable gardening practices throughout the county
- **It's FUN!**



How to Become an EMG in Chatham County

- Participate in 2 part training course
 - Gardening Knowledge
 - Volunteer Skills
 - [Download Schedule](#)
- Submit application
- Pass “exam”
- Complete volunteer internship



What If I Don't Live in Chatham County?

- You do not have to be a county resident to be part of the Chatham EMG Program
- BUT all volunteer work must be completed in Chatham County



Becoming an Extension Master Gardener

1. Attend
Information
Session
2. Attend at least
4 Extension
Gardener classes



2. Extension Gardener Classes

Gardening Knowledge

- Open to everyone
- Focus on sustainable practices
- Topics include fruits, vegetables, herbs, landscape care and plants, lawns
- Taught throughout the year, evenings and daytime

Must attend at least 4 Extension Gardener classes before applying!



Extension Gardener Spring Series:

Growing Edibles

Free classes, taught Tues. evening, 6:30-8:30
and again Wed. morning, 10:00-noon

- **Growing Fruits and Berries**
 - Feb. 14 & 15
- **Growing Vegetables Year Round**
 - Feb. 21 & 22
- **Growing Culinary Herbs**
 - Feb. 28 & March 1

[Registration now open](#)



Extension Gardener Spring Series:

Sustainable Landscapes

Free classes, taught Tues. evening, 6:30-8:30
and again Wed. morning, 10:00-noon

- **Plants for Living Landscapes**
 - Class 1: Perennials, March 28 & 29
 - Class 2: Trees and Shrubs, April 4 & 5
- **Piedmont Lawns and Lawn Alternatives**
 - April 25 & 26

Registration will open early March



3. Submit Your Application

- **Due by April 27, 2017**
 - Complete all pages
 - Sign Certification Agreement
- [Download an application](#)
- **Will be notified of acceptance by May 5, 2017**



4. Orientation

- Will be scheduled for mid-late May
 - Date will depend upon participants' availability
- Get to know fellow volunteers
- Learn about summer activities
- Welcome to Extension & EMG Program



Training Fee: \$100

- **Covers expenses:**
 - Refreshments
 - Course supplies
 - Course binder
 - Name tag
 - \$40 per person sent to NCSU
- **Due at orientation**



Training Manual

Extension Gardener Handbook

- Available online:
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook>
- Hard copies available 2018?



5. Summer Activities

Optional but encouraged!

EMG College at NC State

- June 8 -11
- Attend single or multiples days
- Can stay on campus or commute
- Tours, workshops, keynote speakers and more!



5. Summer Activities

Growing Fall Vegetables from Seed : A Hands-on Workshop

- Tues., August 1 – for EMGs
- Thurs., August 3
- Sat., August 5



5. Summer Activities

- Field Trips
- Garden Visits
- Webinars
- Projects
- And more!



6. EMG Core Training

Volunteer Skills

- Interactive, hands-on workshops
- Focus:
 - Deepen and apply your knowledge
 - Find research-based information/resources



6. EMG Core Training

- **Most Wednesdays, Aug. 30 – Nov. 1**
- 10am – 3pm with lunch break
- **Must attend at least 5 of 7 classes**
- **Attendance of Nov. 1 review & exam required**



6. EMG Core Training

Topics:

- **Aug. 30** – Extension resources; Finding research based information
- **Sept. 6** – Botany & plant ID
- **Sept. 20** – Soils & nutrients



6. EMG Core Training

- **Oct. 4** – Pest and beneficial insects
- **Oct. 18** – Integrated pest management
- **Oct. 25** – Weeds and weed management

Optional field trips may be scheduled



Nov. 1 – Final Review

- **Attendance required!**
- **Practical Exam**
 - Not memorization!
 - Practical, real life scenarios
 - Combination of individual and group activities



EMG Monthly Meetings

**2nd Wednesday of each month,
begin at 9:30**

- May 10
- June 14
- Don't meet July
or Aug
- Sept. 13
- Oct. 11
- **Nov. 8** – class
graduation
- Dec. 13



7. Volunteering

- **50 hour volunteer internship, within one year of completing training**
- Can begin volunteering while still in training
- Class project




7. Volunteering: Class Project

Develop Educational Resources:

- Lists of recommended plants
 - Focus on well adapted or native, non-invasive
 - Lists for different needs/site conditions
- Recommended varieties of fruits and vegetables

SUPPORT NATIVE BEES

SUPPORT NATIVE BEES			Clay Soil
 <p>Nodding Onion <i>Allium cernuum</i></p>	 <p>Rattlesnake Master <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i></p>	 <p>Purple Prairie Clover <i>Dalea purpurea</i></p>	 <p>Stiff Goldenrod <i>Solidago rigida</i></p>
 <p>Wild White Indigo <i>Baptisia lactea</i></p>	 <p>Prairie Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i></p>	 <p>False Sunflower <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i></p>	 <p>Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i></p>
 <p>New England Aster <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i></p>	 <p>Golden Alexanders <i>Zizia aurea</i></p>	 <p>Canada Milk Vetch <i>Astragalus canadensis</i></p>	 <p>Prairie Blazingstar <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i></p>

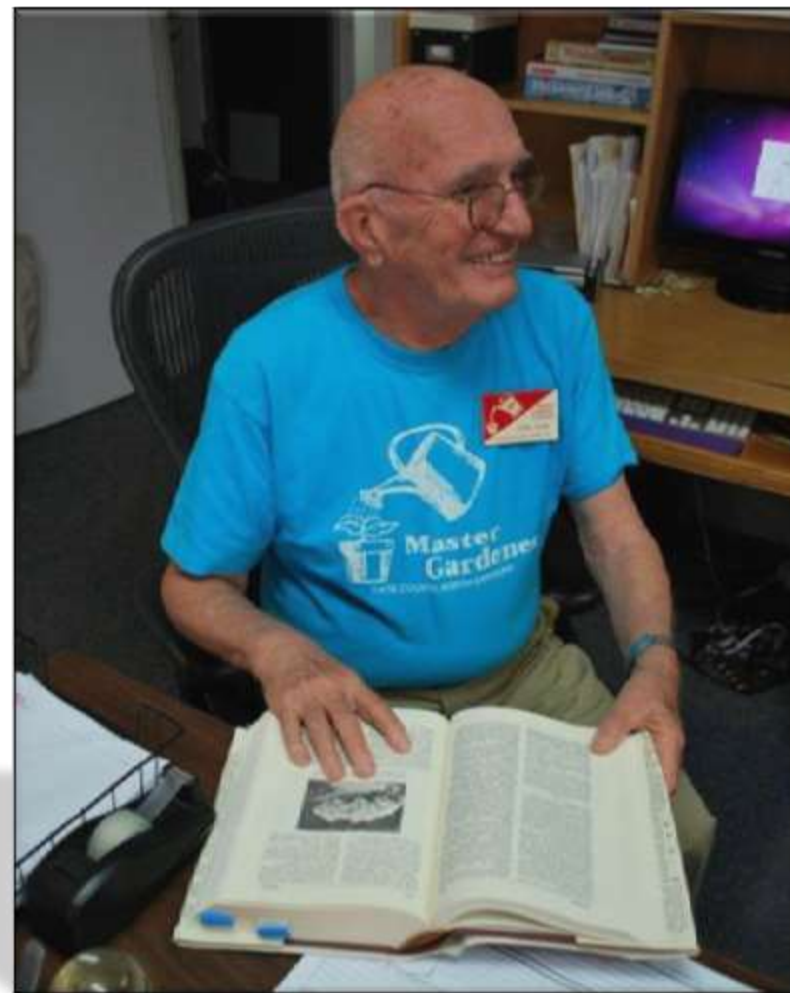
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PLANT NATIVE PLANTS

7. Volunteering

Directly related to Extension's educational programs in Chatham County

EMGs founded in 1972 to help answer gardening questions



Volunteer Opportunities

Plant Clinic

- Answer home gardening questions
- Mon. & Thurs. afternoons at Extension office
- At events, farmers markets, festivals



Youth Outreach

- **4-H Clubs and Camps:** Gardening and environmental education
- **Schools:** Lessons for 2nd grade classes participating in 4-H Life Cycles School Enrichment Program



Public Outreach

- Talks & demonstrations by EMGs
- Larger events with guest speakers
- Articles and social media



GREEN SPRING
VCE MASTER GARDENERS
FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Cultivating Biodiversity in the Home Garden

13th Annual EcoSavvy Symposium

Saturday, February 18, 2017
8:30 am-12:30 pm
Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria

Featured speakers:

Bill McLaughlin
Plant Curator, USBG

Alonso Abugattas
Natural Resource Manager,
Arlington County

The poster features a large, detailed image of a monarch butterfly with orange and black wings, perched on a yellow flower. A small bee is also visible in the lower left corner of the butterfly image.

Virginia EMGs, Fairfax County

Demonstration Gardens

- Help plan, develop, maintain and utilize gardens that teach!
- At the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center



Help with Program Management

Join a Team!

- Plant Clinic
- Technology
- Initial Training
- Advanced Training
- School Outreach
- Social
- Fundraising
- Public Outreach
- Demo Gardens



Beyond the Internship

- 50 hour internship completes training
 - Certified EMG
- **To remain active in the program:**
 - 30 volunteer hours/year
 - 10 continuing education hours
 - NO FEES



Next Steps

- **Register for Extension Gardener Classes**
 - Registration open for growing edibles: [click here](#)
 - Registration for landscape classes will open in late Feb.
- **Turn in application by April 27**
 - [Download application](#)



Questions?

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Learn more about the

[Chatham County EMG Program](#)



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