



THE HILL CITY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!

- ❁ Become a volunteer educator associated with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service.
- ❁ Provide gardening information to our community (Lynchburg City, Amherst and Campbell Counties).
- ❁ Help local citizens and their children learn about gardening, nutritious foods, and the natural world.



YOU NEED THE HILL CITY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION!



- ❁ Become educated on all aspects of gardening through 50 hours of classes taught by college professors and other experts in the field.
- ❁ Enjoy membership in a vibrant community service organization that is part of a national group of distinguished volunteers recognized for their knowledge, skills, and for the significant work done to improve their communities through horticulture.
- ❁ Improve your health through the many benefits of gardening.

GET YOUR APPLICATION AT HCMGA.COM

IMPORTANT CLASS OF 2020 DATES:

January 17—Application Due Date

February 6—Class Orientation

February 10—First Day of Classes



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu

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Who Are Master Gardeners? What Do They Do?

Master Gardeners (MGs) are volunteer educators working with Cooperative Extension Services all over the USA. In Virginia, 50 clock hours of instruction on all facets of gardening are required. After passing an exam, MGs assist the extension agent mainly by providing information and education to the public. To become full-fledged MGs, new volunteers contribute a set number of hours during their first year following graduation from classes. Maintaining MG status then requires a minimum of 20 hours of service and 8 hours of continuing education each year.

The mission of the Virginia MG program is “Sharing Knowledge. Empowering Communities.” They adhere to three core values: **respect** for the environment, each other, and those we serve; **accountability** for wise stewardship of resources to our organization, our community, and each other; and **collaboration** as we willingly work with a diverse group to reach a common goal and as we actively seek out partners. The Hill City Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) is a vibrant organization that works to bring these values alive through the following programs.

For adults

The **Davis Instructional Garden** and **Compost Education Center** on the campus of HumanKind are recent ventures. Educational seminars for the public be given here. In each of the past two growing seasons, demonstration gardens have grown over 1,000 pounds of vegetables which were donated for free distribution. In 2019 and in the future, 14 plots are available for members of the public to grow the plants they choose.

Help desks were likely one of the first ways in which MGs provided service to the public. At the Lynchburg Community Market and at the VCE office, volunteers are available to answer questions or find resources for community members during the growing season. **HCMGA’s Speaker’s Bureau** made 48 presentations in our area in 2018 and reached an audience of 882 people. A variety of topics are available.

A group of volunteers visits an **Amherst County nursing home** monthly to arrange and discuss flowers. Seeing and smelling the flowers brings residents memories of their own gardens. The **home visit team** helps answer questions and gives guidance on solving problems. If you are wondering about good place to plant a tree or why the grass won’t grow, a home visit can be arranged.

At Jefferson’s Lynchburg retreat, **Poplar Forest Interpretive Garden** shows a sampling of some of the common vegetables and herbs of that era. It is open to the public during the growing season. Working with garden clubs, scouts, and others, HCMGA is spearheading the **Amherst Depot Pollinator Garden** at the Amherst Visitors’ Center.

In Our Local Schools

In Lynchburg, fourth graders at **five elementary schools** participate in three programs each year. With emphasis on skills required for Science Standards of Learning, the programs center on soils, house plants, and growing annual plants. At the house plants program, each student pots and takes home a spider plant to grow.

Project Learning Tree provides seven monthly programs on such topics as “Water Wonders”, “Every Tree for Itself”, and “Earth Manners.” It brings excitement to third graders at Amherst County elementary schools. Students learn about their environment and the importance of caring for it.

MGs at **Bedford Hills Elementary School** support a program that begins with kindergarten classes planting sunflowers and morning glories, first grade growing zinnias, and second grade planting and eating salad in the spring and corn, lima beans, and pumpkins in the fall. At **Amherst County HS**, MGs work with Environmental Science classes to study and maintain school gardens.

Summer Vegetable Gardens

Called “summer” gardens, the activities begin in early spring at **Boys & Girls Club**, **Jubilee Family Center**, the **Juvenile Detention Center**, and **DePaul Community Resources**. They begin with early crops (potatoes, onions, lettuce, and radishes). Summer crops (tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, melons, etc.) go into the ground when soil has warmed. At most gardens, some produce is cooked and sampled after harvesting while the remainder is sent home.

Other Activities

The Cooperative Extension office also requests help from MGs for special projects. Among these are Reality Store projects at local high schools, the “Grow and Give” garden sponsored by Churches for Urban Ministry, providing assistance and direction at Lynchburg Parks & Rec’s gardens, and judging Science Fair projects..