

Audrain County Master Gardener Yearly Report

2007 was a busy year for the Audrain County Master Gardeners, both “active” and “the new crop.” This graduating class completed their Core Master Gardener classes beginning August 29, 2007, and concluded their eleven week course on November 21st.



Eighteen participants were enrolled. Among the area residents participating in this course were: Shirley Barker, Steve Bybee, Debbie Canine, Don Coffey, Jo Anne Conley, Shirley Hill, Liz Johnston, Wendy Lierheimer, Pat Miller, Eva Mistler, Louise Mortimer, Todd and Lacey Ralls, Sharon Rice, Tricia Watson-Adams, Carolyn Widaman, Ellen and Jim Wilson.

Specialists and knowledgeable area nursery growers contributed in-depth expertise to the subjects included in the core Master Gardener classes. Chris Starbuck, Jim Jarman, Todd Lorenz, Don Day and Jim Quinn gave outstanding presentations in their area of expertise. Herbaceous Ornamentals was taught by Malcolm White, a Callaway Master Gardener.

In 2007 Audrain County Master Gardeners numbered twenty-seven “active” Master Gardeners the AC chapter. This group volunteered 2134 hours of volunteer service to our county and city. The value of volunteer service has been calculated at \$18.77 an hour by independent sources. Our group’s contribution to the county and city was nearly \$38,000 for 2007.

Master Gardeners compiled 252 continuing education hours to become more knowledgeable in horticultural topics. Their efforts to update their information base resulted in 140 hours of advanced training during the year.

Activities and events in which the group participated included Master Gardener plant sales, educational tours, beautification projects, monthly meetings and assisting with horticultural and gardening aspects of the 4-H and Youth Fair. Individuals Master Gardeners answer questions, consult on pressing vegetation concerns (such as the consequences of the spring freeze and oak wilt disease in trees), and contribute to specific beautification efforts in the area.

Also, if a previous certified, “Active” Master Gardener has become a resident of Audrain County, they are eligible to apply for membership in our chapter. Their training credentials are reviewable by the Master Gardener Advisor for our county.

(Submitted by gsp--ACMG Public Relations Committee)

Independent Sector—source for value calculation