# 2021 Illinois Master Gardener Awards Ceremony



September 10, 2021

**Award Winners** 



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

### A huge thank you to the Master Gardener State Advisory

**Committee** for spending many hours reviewing award applications. The advisory committee is composed of two Master Gardeners and two Extension staff from five regions of the state.

### **Northeast**

Pat Gunnerson (MG)

**Kendall County** 

Judy Panico (MG)

Lake County

Sarah Fellerer

(Program Coor.)

Kane/Dupage/Kendall Unit

Nancy Kreith (Hort Educator)

**Cook County** 

### **West Central**

May Bach (MG)

Peoria County

Gwen Podeschi (MG)

**Christian County** 

Brittnay Haag (Hort Educator)

Livington/McLean/Woodford Unit

Jennifer Fishburn

(Hort Educator)

Logan/Menard/Sangamon Unit

### Southern

Debra Fearn (MG)

**Edwards County** 

Sally Cook (MG)

**Perry County** 

Austin Little (Hort Educator)

Franklin/Jackson/Perry, Randolph/ Williamson Unit

**OPEN POSITION** 

### Northwest

Vicky Wyffels (MG)

**Henry County** 

Barb Dahlbach (MG)

**LaSalle County** 

Bruce Black (Hort Educator)

Carroll/Lee/Whiteside Unit

**Heather Coyle** 

(County Director)

Boone/Dekalb/Ogle Unit

### **East Central**

Jane White (MG)

Piatt County

Jana Waite (MG)

**Champaign County** 

Jenny Lee (Program Coor.)
Coles/Cumberland/Douglas/ Moultrie/

Shelby Unit

Sarah Vogel (Hort Educator)

Macon/Dewitt/ Piatt Unit

#### State

**Candice Hart** 

State Master Gardener Specialist

**Dennis Bowman** 

Interim Assistant Dean, Agriculture and Natural Resources

### 2021 Outstanding Master Gardeners

<u>Name</u>		County
Bill	Baker	Tazewell
Patty	Bergquist	Cook South
Cheryl	Christianson	Whiteside
Ron	Fruin	DuPage
Jeanne	Goble	Coles
Susan	Jacobson	McHenry
William	Johnson	Peoria
Michelene	Koch	Tazewell
Kathleen	Lattz	Piatt
Patricia	Mauk	Will
Doug	Moore	McHenry
Anita	Norton	Mclean

Oftedal

Parker

Macon

Mclean

Marilyn

Michael

### 2021 Outstanding Master Gardeners

Claudia Petrie Cook South

Peggy Shane Peoria

Terry Smith Coles

Sherri Stauffer Lee

Nancy Wadsworth Lee

Lynn Wolgamot Vermilion

Rosemary Wyche Cook Chicago

Mary Zorc Lake

### 2021 Sustained Excellence Award Winners

# Jennifer Bass Peoria County/ Unit 11

Jennifer Bass has been a Peoria County Master Gardener for seven years. Since that time, she has worked on a myriad of gardening projects and received the State Master Gardener of the Year Award in 2017. Jennifer is dependable, enthusiastic, and always encourages her fellow volunteers to "Be the Best they can be". She is recognized as a dedicated, knowledgeable and excellent example of our University of Illinois Master Gardener Program.

### Louise Bassett Peoria County/ Unit 11

Louise is a team player in the Peoria County Master Gardener organization. She is always ready to share her knowledge, her love of nature, her readiness to help and her friendly leadership style which conveys a warm and welcoming feeling with everyone she meets. Louise is without a doubt one of the most talented, dedicated, and knowledgeable Master Gardeners and is an excellent example of the organization that is our University of Illinois Master Gardener Program.

### John Conrad Ford-Iroquois/Unit 13

John is a well-organized, dedicated leader, generously volunteering his time and talents to FIMG projects and programs. He continues to serve as an officer at monthly business meetings, offers leadership to the Garden Walk committee, heads the vegetable section at the Onarga Library community garden and took pesticide training for a second time in December 2020 to assist in community garden weed management.

# Tom Creswell McLean County / Unit 12

Tom Creswell became a Master Gardener with the class of 2013 and earned the State Outstanding Master Gardener Award in 2016. He has served as MG President, Client Services Chair, Holton Homes Project Co-Chair, Liaison to Extension Advisory Council and has taken on various roles for our annual Home Lawn and Garden Day including stage chair, volunteer coordinator, presenter, and announcer. His fabulous voice also can be heard on WJBC radio during the Master Gardener show.

# Chuck Crider Peoria County/ Unit 11

Chuck Crider spent a lifetime as an educator and influential gardener in the Peoria community before joining the Master Gardening program 9 years ago. He worked many volunteer hours applying his gardening expertise to showcase projects like Luthy Botanical Gardens and ICC Master Gardener Display Gardens. He served as co-chair of the Education Committee of the Peoria County Master Gardener program where he coordinated new Master Gardener training and testing and established a formal mentoring program that significantly increased the retention rate for new interns. He served tirelessly as President of the Peoria Master Gardeners in 2017 and 2018. His extensive expertise, commitment to education and leadership has had a significant and lasting impact on our program and community.

# Diana Glosser Coles County/ Unit 19

Diana is an exemplary Master Gardener with remarkable organizational, research, and writing skills. She finds opportunities to be helpful and is a notable leader. Diana is always willing to help with both simple and difficult projects and completes them promptly. She is very knowledgeable and shows kindness and generosity.

### Jerome Hossli Cook Chicago/ Unit 6

Jerry Hossli has made a measurable impact over the past 13 years as a passionate Master Gardener volunteer, Master Composter and Master Naturalist. His volunteer activities are as varied as his skills, and they include: working with patients at Schwab rehabilitation hospital while acting as the site lead in planning, designing and maintaining the rooftop garden. Working with UIE educators in developing and delivering conservation@home programs and presentations, speaking about rain gardens, native landscape design, composting and bird gardening; and simply acting as a friend and mentor to his fellow Master Gardeners.

### Ed Kuchta Cook South/ Unit 6

Master Gardener Ed Kuchta excels at educating the public as well as fellow Master Gardeners. Ed's vision on how to improve and enhance a program, coupled with his care and attention to detail ensure a quality Speakers Bureau presentation, youth program, special event, and training workshop will run smoothly, contain valuable information, and engage all who attend.

### Linda Kunesh Dupage County/ Unit 5

Linda Kunesh is the dynamic team leader for the DuPage Care Center project in DuPage County. The project serves 65 Care Center residents in the Garden Club with their own small, raised bed garden. 20 Master Gardeners volunteer weekly under her supervison and more than 60 Master Gardeners volunteer there yearly.

### Peggy Lackman McHenry County / Unit 3

Peggy Lackman is an amazing gardener. Although her specialty is herbs, she has moved from there, to vegetables and herbs at the food pantry garden developed on her family's former farm, and currently chairs our Demonstration Garden at McHenry County College.

# Deb McFarling Macon County/ Unit 17

Deb McFarling has been an active Master Gardener in Macon County since 2008. Through her leadership and initiative, Deb has encouraged many successful master gardener collaborations and has made substantial contributions to her local community through the Master Gardener volunteer program. She is currently serving a 1 year term as Vice Chair for the Master Gardeners and will assume the Chair position this fall. She takes initiative to lead new projects and possesses the resolve to follow through on each endeavor.

# Denise Nichols Lake County/Unit 3

Denise Nichols is well recognized around the Lake County Extension office. She has participated and lead in most all projects which has identified her as a go-to-EMG in the program. As a co-leader of the annual plant sale, Denise has been instrumental in tripling the fundraising income that supports the EMG programs and our local Extension operations. Topping the number of continuing education hours earned for many years in a row, Denise is quick to share her knowledge with other volunteers and encourage them to engage in more EMG activities.

With an affinity for trees, Denise co-leads our Urban Tree Team. She has executed many educational opportunities for the community to learn the benefits of healthy trees. Leading the Training Assistance Team, (oversees engaging the new trainees in their classes) Denise knows all the new trainees by name by the end of training!

### Judy Panico Lake County /Unit 3

A life-long learner, Judy Panico continues to experience all aspects of the Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program and shares her knowledge with the other EMG and Intern volunteers. Her passion to develop opportunities for our volunteers included creating an event that educated close to 700 people on the benefits of trees, specifically natives. Actively involved with onboarding new volunteers, she assisted in creating a mentor program and mentors other EMG volunteers as well. As a response to our COVID restrictions, Judy was instrumental in creating and implementing a program for Interns to learn the process of answering client questions via email with real-life examples from our clients. Much has improved in the program as a direct result of Judy's participation.

# Susie Smith Champaign County/ Unit 13

Susie has gone above and beyond in her role as a Master Gardener since joining the program in 2012. She takes initiative to learn research -based information so that she can share the knowledge with others. Susie is quick to find solutions to problems, create helpful resources for volunteers and Extension staff, and she leads by example by being informed, present, and committed to the mission of "helping others learn to grow".

### Larry Stratton Peoria County/Unit 11

Larry Stratton has been a Master Gardener for over 17 years and has exhibited a strong and sustained commitment to our program and our community. He has been the leader of Peoria County Extension's Help Line, where he has for years mentored numerous Master Gardeners and provided valuable insights and solutions to gardeners throughout the community. He has an insatiable appetite for continuous learning and has developed deep expertise in many areas, which he has been always willing to share. He has become the "go to" person for answers to the most difficult problems that our Master Gardeners encounter.

### 2021 Teamwork Award Winners

# Plant Information Service Email Team Chicago Botanic Garden

Donna Frett James Pearson Maggie Weiss

The Chicago Botanic Garden's Plant Information Service closed mid-March 2020 due to the Covid-19 quarantine. Since that time, Donna Frett, James Pearson, and Maggie Weiss worked remotely to answer email questions. During a time of upset and uncertainty, they worked tirelessly, almost daily, to keep our virtual doors open in order to provide five-star customer service to visitors from all over the country. This exemplary three-person Email Team answered over half of the more than 35,000 email questions.

# Social Media Team Unit 13 – Champaign County

Pam Hohn Kathy O'Neill Christie Roszkowski Margaret Schrock Karen Semple

The social media team saw the need and demand for horticulture education in a remote world and took quick action to coordinate a team of volunteers to create timely educational posts on our local Facebook page. Their time, efforts, knowledge, and ability to work as a team to educate others resulted in reaching over 125,000 people last year. Many organizations nationwide have been sharing their posts with their networks as well extending our reach even further.

# Sand Ridge Nature Center Garden Team Unit 6- Cook South Suburban County

Mack Budzowski
Monica Gonzalez
Carmen Holmes
Tom Lyons
Paul Schultz
Marilyn Thompson
Nancy Thorson
Phyllis Warsen

Sand Ridge Nature Center (SRNC) Garden Team devotes their time to managing a Northeast Illinois native garden, dune garden, butterfly garden, allium plot, container garden and herb garden. The gardens are located at the partnering site of Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) in South Holland, IL serving a high African American (83%).

The goal of the project is to demonstrate to visitors that home gardeners can support wildlife in something as small as a container to as large as a front landscape. The onion and herb plots demonstrate that edibles can be grown in harmony with deer, which are overabundant in South Holland, IL. Plants are labeled and FBCC staff utilize the gardens during their scheduled tours and hikes

# Youth Summer Garden Unit 4– Lee County

Tom Cartwright Zack Moss
Darla Emmert Nancy Strock
Aimee Hoffman Judy Truckenbrod
Mary Kathryn Nancy Wadsworth
Sherri Stauffer Donna Waters

The Youth Summer Garden Program in Lee County is a collaborative effort between the disciplines of 4-H and Youth, and Horticulture. The program began in the spring of 2017 to address the needs of youth in Lee County for quality Horticulture Education. A committee of Master Gardeners worked to determine the best avenue to address the issue. The project has evolved from its beginnings of 6 raised beds and 10 youth to 10 beds and 50 youth served through the last 4 years. The youth garden strives to constantly change to meet the varied needs of the youth in Lee County and is enjoyed by all attendees each summer.

# Flanagan School Garden Unit 12- Livingston County

**Nancy Carls** Diana McGuckin Linda Corban Cathy Montgomery Jan Nussbaum Jean Dunning Joan Smeltzer Carol Gardner Paula Trainor-Rosenbaum Cindy Kinate Vic Wiechmann Sandy Knight Dee Woodburn Connie Kostelc Rose Yahnig RaeJean Kuntz

Flanagan School Gardens is a Master Gardener project working with Flanagan school teachers. The project seeks to enhance gardening experiences and education through hands-on learning with teachers and students. Master Gardeners engage with primary through high school age students on a variety of statewide gardening initiatives including food access and pollinator education.

# Gardening Insights Unit 17– Macon County

Nancy Derby Ruby Mathews Sherry Thomas Jacque Wrigley

Gardening Insights promotes awareness, education, and appreciation for gardening. The project started in 2007 and has grown to be an event the entire community anticipates. There are opportunities to attend educational sessions as well as participate in some hands-on activities. This event is a prime example of education, collaboration, and fun!

# Monticello Area Community Garden Team Unit 17 – Piatt County

Mark Bradley Rosi McLeese **Cheryl Evert** Judy Mitchell Charles Foran Mare Payne Kathleen Piatt Mary Hittmeier George Johnston Mary Kay Randall Mike Randall Anna Kaczmarek Jane Smith Chris Keller Kathleen Lattz David White Kent McFarland Helen Wilding

The Piatt County Master Gardener team provides dynamic leadership, education and guidance to the Monticello Area Community Garden. The team is always trying to find new ways to promote gardening as well as educate and inspire the community to grow vegetables, herbs and flower. In 2020, the master gardener team expanded the accessibility of fresh produce in our community through their partnerships with local food pantries and donated over 500lbs of vegetables from the garden.

# Heritage Canyon Unit 4 – Whiteside County

Cheryl Christianson
Judy Holesinger
Colette Caffey - McMahon

The Heritage Canyon Project started as a request from the City of Fulton, after the 2019 August derecho decimated the area between the chapel and mill pond sites, Whiteside County Master Gardeners were asked to provide expertise in restoring the landscape. Judy Holesinger, Cheryl Christianson and Colette Caffey-McMahon banded together with community members and partners to restore the site. Initial plantings, of 50 different species, were started in October 2020, with final plantings completed Spring 2021.

# Timeless Gardens Unit 9 – Will County

Joy Alwan Chris Blecker Jeannie Flannery Carol Froeming Linda Gones Jo Ann Kohlhagen Carol Krvickas Marcia Steward Rex Toepke Kim Wysocki

The Timeless Garden MG Project is a unique partnership between Will County Master Gardeners and an often-overlooked underserved population-seniors living in congregate housing--both in nursing home and assisted living centers. Each Timeless Garden MG Project site has established a garden club that all residents are welcome to join in at whatever level of ability and interest. These garden clubs are held weekly year-round and involve hands on raised bed gardening as well as associated nature and garden activities. The Will MG Timeless Garden Clubs enrich the participants with knowledge, fresh food, physical and mental activity and so much more.

### Congratulations to award winners!

On behalf of University of Illinois Extension, Horticulture Educators, and program staff, we say thank you to all Master Gardeners for your hard work and dedication to University of Illinois Extension

Master Gardener Program and to helping others learn to grow.

### Thank you!

### **Shelly Nickols-Richardson**

Associate Dean and Director of Extension

### **Kelly Allsup**

Livingston/McLean/Woodford Unit 12

#### **Bruce Black**

Carroll/Lee/Whiteside Unit 4

### Jennifer Fishburn

Logan/Menard/Sangamon Unit 16

### **Mary Fischer**

Clay/Effingham/Fayette/ Jasper

#### **Austin Little**

Franklin/Jackson/Perry/Randolph/Williamson
Unit 26

#### Richard Hentschel

DuPage/Kane/Kendall Unit 5

#### Ken Johnson

Calhoun/Cass/Greene/Morgan/Scott Unit 15

#### Ryan Pankau

Champaign/Ford/Iroquois/Vermilion Unit 13

#### Elizabeth Wahle

Madison/Monroe/St. Clair Unit 22 and Statewide commercial agriculture, horticulture

#### **Dennis Bowman**

Interim Assistant Dean, Agriculture/Natural
Resources

### **Gemini Bhalsod**

North Cook County Unit 6

### **Christopher Enroth**

Henderson/Knox/McDonough/Warren Unit 10

#### Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle

Fulton/Mason/Peoria/Tazewell Unit 11

### **Brittnay Haag**

Livingston/McLean/Woodford Unit 12

### **Andrew Holsinger**

Christian/Jersey/Macoupin/Montgomery
Unit 18

### **Nancy Kreith**

Cook County Unit 6

### **Emily Swihart**

Henry/Mercer/Rock Island/Stark Unit 7

#### Sarah Vogel

Macon/Dewitt/Piatt Unit 17

# Save the Date

2022 Master Gardener Conference

September 8-9, 2022

Will County

