2022 Illinois Master Gardener Awards Ceremony



September 9, 2022

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

Judy Panico (MG)

Lake County

Sarah Fellerer

(Program Coor.)

Kane/Dupage/Kendall Unit

OPEN MG POSITION
OPEN STAFF POSITION

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

Jennifer Warren (Program

Coor.)

Gallatin/Hamilton/Hardin/Pope/ Saline/ White Unit

OPEN STAFF POSITION

Northwest

Vicky Wyffels (MG)

Henry County

Barb Dahlbach (MG)

LaSalle County

Bruce Black (Hort Educator)

Carroll/Lee/Whiteside Unit

Heather Coyle

(County Director)

East Central

Boone/Dekalb/Ogle Unit

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

Travis Burke

Assistant Dean, Agriculture/Agri-Business Program Leader

2022 Outstanding Master Gardeners

<u>Name</u> <u>County</u>

Debbie Andrews-Bryant Vermilion

Josephine Boyle South Suburban Cook

Lori Brown DeKalb

Janice Buscher Sangamon

Suzanne Campbell Will

Jane Chapman Perry

Andrea Churchill Rock Island

Carol Csanda McLean

Deanna Dyer Saline

Barb Gaffron McLean

Barbara Hannon Macon

Carla Haselhorst Clinton

Ron Hendrickson Winnebago

Cathy Hiser Coles

Karla Kane Peoria

Julie Karmeier Washington

Dian Langenhorst Clinton

Diane Miller Lake

Carol Mills Logan

Loretta	Neuberger	Lake
Carol	Ogle	Tazewell
Mare	Payne	Piatt
Annette	Peugh	Tazewell
Sara	Pohl	Ogle
Ellen	Rice	Tazewell
Linda	Rinaldi	Tazewell
Audrey	Rowe	Vermilion
Gail	Sanders	Dupage
Wanda	Shuler	McLean
Mary Ann	Sievers	Sangamon
Jane	Smith	DeWitt
Ann	Somers	Winnebago
Hila	Swanson	Peoria
Steve	Swisher	Rock Island
Barbara	Thompson	Sangamon
My Dung	Trieu	Marion
Jerry	Trosper	Vermilion
Polly	Wagner	Peoria
Becky	Wauthier	Vermilion
Cheryl	West	McLean
Marty	Yochum	Kane
Linda	York	Boone

2022 Sustained Excellence Award Winners

Jason Baldauf South Suburban County/ Unit 6

Master Gardener Jason Baldauf perfectly combines being a lifelong learner with being a valued collaborator and mentor. Jason's contributions to MG continuing education opportunities, supporting new MG Speakers, and networking with key partnering organizations that enhance MG knowledge and outreach make him a valued member of the Cook South Suburban Master Gardener program.

Delores Brown Tazewell County/ Unit 11

Dee has been a Master Gardener for 20 years and has spearheaded the public gardens in the Village of Mackinaw, IL for 15 years. She works closely with the village administrators to plan, plant and maintain multiple garden beds for the Mackinaw community to enjoy and provides regular updates to the Tazewell County Master Gardeners about this project at the monthly meetings.

Carol Cihla Tazewell County/ Unit 11

Carol lives out the values and mission of the University of Illinois Master Gardener program. Throughout her tenure as a master gardener she has created and maintained gardens where the community is invited to learn more about plants and the ways in which they can integrate them into their lives for mutual benefits. Carol has demonstrated her ability to be an innovative leader who values community and education. She is an excellent ambassador of the Master Gardener program and has shown her capacity to continue to develop and grow in her role.

Deb Durnal-Corso Rock Island County / Unit 7

Deb is actively involved in 99.9% of Unit 7 projects. Her love and flair for writing and design turns up the quality of every project she is involved in. She is a dedicated volunteer who enjoys sharing horticultural knowledge in a variety of ways whether it be in person at MonARC, demonstrating at Flower and Garden or by written word.

Judy Hartley Rock Island County / Unit 7

In her 10 years as a Master Gardener there is probably not a program in the unit that Judy has not had her hands in. She is a natural leader and finds ways to bring out the best in people. Her public reach is far with hort hotline and the patrons are thankful for her time listening to their needs and thoughtful in depth answers. The youth she has reached through pollinator patch will forever have a love of plants and nature.

Sue Hazelwood Lake County/ Unit 3

Sue is a passionate, dedicated, and organized leader who has developed and successfully accomplished so much for our program. Sue is a lifelong learner who has incorporated this passion into everything she does. Sue has been leading a successful Plant Sale since 2016 and taken over the Extension Grounds Demo Garden. Sue has also been involved or led dozens of other projects throughout the county since 2016. Sue is always available to jump in and help with any projects and is an invaluable asset to the Master Gardener team.

Sandy Knight Livingston/ Unit 12

Sandy Knight continues to take on leadership roles in the Master Gardener program whether that position be President, presenter, problem solver while working the Help Desk, or being Community Project Chair. Sandy's leadership at the Livingston County 4H Park brings together our Master Gardener unit as our members create beautiful floral displays and educational signage which are enjoyed by the public and attendees of the 4H Fair. Sandy is always eager to help other Master Gardeners with their projects.

Ella Maxwell Tazewell County/ Unit 11

Ella has been a Master Gardener for 18 years and has been active the entire time. Ella is a lifelong learner and consummate educator who loves teaching others about Horticulture and Beekeeping. Ella's horticulture degree, work experience and ongoing learning has resulted in a vast knowledge base that she readily and passionately shares with others. If you don't know the answer to a horticulture question, Ella is right there to answer the question or find the answer for you!

Jon McClurken Perry County/ Unit 26

Jon McClurken represents the best that the Master Gardener program has in its volunteers. To paraphrase Linda Hauser, Management Specialists for the U.S. Forest Service, Jon is the type of volunteer who comes early, stays late, and helps with all the aspects of the event, returning year after year knowing what needs to be done He is what every organization wants from its volunteers and the award sums it UP ... sustained and excellent.

Lucille Saunders Coles County /Unit 19

Lucille is an exemplary Master Gardener with remarkable organizational, research, and writing skills. She finds opportunities to learn more about a variety of topics pertaining to gardening and landscaping. Lucille is always encouraging others to utilize our Master Gardener library and makes recommendations to others. She is always willing to take on new tasks to assist with the training of new Master Gardeners and promotes the program to others.

Tudy Scmied McLean County/ Unit 12

Tudy excels at lending a hand and working hard in a variety of Master Gardener leadership activities that make the organization work smoothly and effectively. Tudy previously chaired the Home Lawn and Garden Day vendor committee for several years, presided as the Chair of the Auction Committee, served as program chair for this event and overall coordinator of the event. When 2022 HLGD was switched to the virtual format only a month away from the event, Tudy was the first one to jump on board and advocate for an event, that turned out to be

a wonderful success! There were over 180 viewers that joined us online on March 5 to watch HLGD seminars that would not have happened without her.

2022 Teamwork Award Winners

Demonstration Garden at Little Red Schoolhouse Unit 6 – Cook South Suburban County

Paula Blunk
Josephine Boyle
Rene Celis
Sandy Cusack
Mary Noe
Mary Segal
Mary Lou Tortorello

Cook South's Little Red Schoolhouse Master Gardener team has come together to improve an inherited garden within Forest Preserves of Cook County. Growing in the forest comes with challenges of trees shading out parts of the garden and regular visits from wildlife. This team rose to the challenge to research natural pest control, along with shade tolerant and black walnut tolerant crops and in doing so has increased production over the years. Additionally, they teach visitors how to overcome similar obstacles in their own gardens.

Onarga Library Landscape Project Unit 13 – Ford-Iroquois Counties

John Conrad

Mary Dickinson

Richard Dickinson

Donna Siders

The FIMG's are a very small and dedicated group of volunteers. When the Onarga Library lost all the landscaping in front of their building after a storm in 2020 their shade garden was destroyed and had become a sun garden. Being on a tight budget, they asked the FIMG's who have a community garden on the property to help them create a new landscape design. The request was for low maintenance, environmentally friendly attractive front entrance with potential for educational programs as the plants grew.

The FIMG's responded that they could not pay for the plants, soil or mulch and were unable to do the work of preparing and planting the area. They were also unable to be involved with weeding, watering and maintenance. However, they would be happy to do plant research, meet with the Library Board several times, create a landscape design and be available on planting days to offer instructions on how to do this correctly. They were also available to research and provide knowledge on future issues. They went out and inspected the area and then started to research and create plant lists. There were several meetings on what plants would provide what the Libra had re uested. MarDickinson drew a landscape Ian and presented the plan and plant lists to the Library Board. After a couple meetings they had a final plant list. Plans were made for planting days to include cub scouts, library staff and master gardener advisors. They worked to provide information to the library staff in providing monthly education to the library patrons.

Sherman Natural Prairie & Community Garden Unit 5 – Kane County

Kim Corbo Monica Daily Colleen Haas Patsy Hirsch Teddi Jones Marcia Koenen Linda Load Carol Lussky Kelly Miller
Peggy Ramirez
Jim Stendler
Cherryl Strathmann
Sue Styer
Susan Swing
Deborah Walters-Kaske
Debbie Wollenberg
Mary Yochum

The Sherman Natural Prairie and Community Garden (SNPCG) was developed by University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. This 12-year-old program reconnects people with nature while promoting health through gardening. SNPCG provides university research based growing information to gardeners and naturalists of all experience levels. Gardeners are taught to grow their own food without the use of chemicals, while being surrounded by a restored prairie. They are also taught to be recyclers of their own plant material through the SNPCG composting system.

Lake County Extension Rain Garden Unit 3 – Lake County

Kim Hartmann
Candy Jacobson
Karen Kollath
Diane Miller
Kathy Pessin
Norma Sofo
Michelle Persman
Robin Reynolds
Patricia Warren
Mary Zorc

The idea for an Extension Demonstration Rain Garden was conceived in 2019 to help mitigate the greenhouse flooding that occurred annually due to heavy spring rains. Key team members participated in Purdue University Extension's Rainscaping Education training to learn rain garden planning, installation and maintenance. Originally planned to partner with Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, the installation was delayed due to covid-19 and the Rain Garden Team members rallied around and installed the garden themselves. It now serves as a demonstration garden to the community, illustrating that rain gardens can be attractive, inexpensive to install and play a part in stormwater management.

Main Stay Therapeutic Garden Team Unit 3 – McHenry County

Mary Conkling
Jane Hermans
Ann Huetter
Sue Jacobson
Colleen Leonard
Karen Liston
Pam Marelic
Betsy Meyer

Bob Murray
Helen Noskowicz
Kristin Purtill
Joann Randall
Shar Stellmach
Carol Riha
Shelley Strapon
Susan Teimer-Szydlo
MaryLouise Uccello

This team of Master Gardeners developed, planned, planted and taught 100's of special needs clients at this site for 10 years. Using a creative curriculum, clients have learned and experienced many aspects of gardening.

Wildlife Prairie Park 4-H Learning Garden Unit 11 – Peoria County

May Bach
Joan Houser
Randy Huber
Cindy Intravatolo
Deborah Lane-Christian
Lynn Moon
Kathy McLaughlin

By the fall of 2017 the Wildlife Prairie Park 4-H Learning Garden had declined in both production (two sections unused) and in 4-H youth membership (only one remaining). The current team set about building raised beds and arbors in year 1-3, using companion plantings, mass planting, and crop rotation to increase the production levels of the garden, totally free of chemicals, all planned with the 4-H youth. Garden lessons in the garden are every workday, with a special monthly creative meeting Jan - Oct. These creative meetings are designed to also create garden art meant to compliment both the garden and the key gardening lessons, which has changed the 4- H learning garden into not just a place of beauty, but also a place where garden education is fully displayed for any visitor.

Even during the Covid19 shutdown, the team used Skype/Zoom to keep all the youth members involved, and growing in their garden knowledge. The garden's art uses many free items recycled as art of the art displays, there are raised bed designs, vertical gardening examples, various types of berm gardening, straw bale gardening, and containers all on display. The youth membership, which continued to build to the present day 15 4-H members, enjoys the lesson plans, connecting those lessons to the art creations and always the scheduling of workdays and monthly group creative meetings is a cooperative effort through the leaders/MGs and the 4-H youth, including their parents.

Krape Park Gardens Unit 1 – Stephenson County

Mary Blair
Pam Hoffman
Cheryl King
Jean Korte
Robert McDonald
Joan Oliver
Carol Pinter
MaryBeth Smith
Clay Schroll
Debbie Schwartz
Karen Valkema

A dedicated team of volunteers have been working for two years in partnership with the Freeport Park District to create and maintain beautiful demonstration gardens that educate the public. This group works together to plan, implement and maintain the gardens and provide the public education that is tied to these demonstration gardens.

Tazewell County Health Department WIC Garden Unit 11 – Tazewell County

Michelene Koch Pam Scott Trudy Yazujian

The WIC garden was created 10 years ago and has expanded significantly over the last several years. It is a collaborative project between the Tazewell County Master Gardeners and the Tazewell County Health Department. The garden provides a beautiful learning space for WIC families, Health Department employees and Master Gardeners. The garden provides free produce to WIC families who come to the Health Department to address their food insecurity and other health needs.

Program Planning Committee Unit 4 – Whiteside County

Mary Lou Angone
Shelia Carey
Cheryl Christianson
Mary Foskitt
Judy Holesinger
Deb Kuehl
Herb Kuehl
Charlin Nolan
Lu Ann Meyer
Bev Peterson
Paula Reid-Eberly
Allison Stingley

The Whiteside County Master Gardeners recognize the need for more face to face horticultural programing within the community. A pilot group of Master Gardeners started a program planning team to create a list of education topics from outreach research that included help desk questions. With an understanding that all Master Gardeners have a role to play in educational outreach, the topics are presented to the group as a whole, for input and volunteer opportunities.

This program started in 2020. Whiteside County Master Gardners were able to present 2 programs before the pandemic took hold. In 2021, they presented a total of 7 programs with an average attendance of 8 participants. This program continues today with the "Saturdays with a Master Gardener" series of 7 program topics.

Union School Master Gardener Greenhouse Project Unit 9 – Will County

Roberta DeYoung
Maureen Fisher
Diane Hooper
Sandy Humbert
Carol Jushkewich
Sue Lafferty
Sally Skoff
Jenifer Vock
Sandy Zaban

The Union School Master Gardener Project is an in depth, school-wide, hands-on gardening education program serving 126 underserved students.. Each week, every class, pre-K through 8th, spends 30 minutes with Master Gardeners learning how to grow. The culmination of this project ends with a community wide plant sale of the plants the students grew in the greenhouse.

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

German Cutz

Cook County Unit 6

Bruce Black

Carroll/Lee/Whiteside Unit 4

Jennifer Fishburn

Logan/Menard/Sangamon Unit 16

Mary Fischer

Clay/Effingham/Fayette/ Jasper

Kimberly Rohling

Franklin/Jackson/Perry/Randolph/Williamson Unit 26

Christina Lueking

Bond/Clinton/Jefferson/Marion /Washington Counties

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

Travis Burke

Assistant Dean, Agriculture/Agri-Business
Program Leader

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

One final thank you to the team of Will County Master Gardeners and Program Coordinator, Nancy Kuhajda and who made this conference happen!

SAVE THE DATE 2023 Master Gardener Conference

September 7-8, 2023

Peoria County

