

**Tennessee Master Gardener Search For Excellence
2013 Application**

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 31, 2013

NAME OF PROJECT: Putnam County Fair Enchanted Garden

NAME OF MG GROUP: Putnam County Master Gardeners

COUNTY(IES): Putnam County

MASTER GARDENER CONTACT:

NAME Janet Morningstar

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MASTER GARDENER COORDINATOR/EXTENSION STAFF:

NAME Scott Chadwell

TITLE UT Extension Agent

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CATEGORY---MUST SELECT AND SUBMIT IN ONLY ONE CATEGORY

- Youth
- Demonstration Garden
- Workshop or Presentation
- Community Service
- Innovative Project
- Research
- Special Needs Audience

COMMENCEMENT DATE OF PROJECT: September 2011

LIST THE NAMES OF MASTER GARDENERS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT. Do not include their roles or any other individuals in this listing. *(Place the cursor in the box to type a name.)* You may attach an additional page if necessary.

Project Leaders' Names:

Janet Morningstar, Gloria Vick, Jan Tollett, C.B. Coburn, Bonnie Coburn, Linda
Minnick, Beth Suits, rosemary Ponte, Serina Wells, Ray Savage, Steve Chapman,
Don Surbaugh, Mary Short, Carol Ludgate, Alice Peek, John Boschung, Carolyn
Hinton, Kathy Johnson

Number of Master Gardeners participating: 53

Place your cursor in the boxes and click twice.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (include name, location, target audience, goals, and partnerships) 500 words or less.

Name: 86th Annual Putnam County Agricultural & Industrial Fair
 2012 Putnam County Master Gardeners Fair Exhibit
 The Enchanted Garden

Location: Putnam County Fairgrounds, Master Gardener Building and adjacent grounds.

Dates: August 2nd-August 11th, 2012 and August 1st-August 10th, 2013

Target Audience: General Public

Partnerships: PCMG partnered with the Putnam County Fair Board and garden related community businesses and associations to create an interactive and educational fair display to foster a closer relationship between the public and Master Gardeners.

PCMG utilized the talents of our members to create and educational, yet whimsical exhibit, highly attended by the general public including adults, children, seniors and special needs groups.

The theme and displays were introduced through a booklet titled "The Enchanted Garden". Participants were guided to visit some of their favorite storybook characters and nursery rhymes to play a game of Fables and Fun by following the Yellow Brick Road to the exhibits. Booklets were personalized with the participants name and particular interests. A "Where's Waldo" type of game allowed guests to go on an adventure filled scavenger hunt in search of plants and animals to collect answers to questions and magic beans like Jack in the Beanstalk. Booklets certified by PCMG volunteer and stamped when complete.

Highlights:

The Children's Farmer's Market: working market setting displaying various fruits and vegetables emphasizing where grown and how procured for markets. Tactile displays included shelled corn for children to touch and feel.

Juggling Bench: Wooden Rocker

Farmer Browns Tool Shed: labeled tools illustrating use.

All Creatures Great and Small: Wildlife Sanctuary Garden

Peter Rabbit's Tunnel: 3 dimensional interactive soil tunnel

Mr. McGregor's Garden: Vegetable Garden

Mrs. McGregor's Kitchen: Preserved and dried food items

Greenhouse: Working Greenhouse donated by partner Grower's Solution

Square Foot Garden: Raised Bed Gardens

The Land of OZ: Children's potting shed. Seedlings planted by children to take home and nurture.

DESCRIBE THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT. 500 words or less.

Planning and discussion began in September 2011. The entire membership discussed theme, planning, goals and budget as well as display specifics. In October 2011 a theme and Fair Chairperson were chosen. From November 2011-February 2012 project assignments and chairpersons were selected. Committees were assigned completion time lines and a \$600 budget approved. The following goals were agreed upon by the membership:

*Prepare a ten day gardening event to educate and entertain members of the community including adults, children, seniors and special needs groups.

*Facilities to include PCMG Fair building and adjacent grounds.

*Exhibits and displays to be educational and interactive.

*Themed using recognizable literature and lore titled "The Enchanted Garden".

*Education to include PCMG available to answer gardening questions and hosting visits through interior and exterior displays and gardens assisting guests with the completion of their tour booklets.

The executive committee created communication lists and methods for volunteers including e-mail, website and blog options. All displays/sections had a chairperson and committee

empowered with autonomy but ultimately reporting to the Fair Chairperson with committee status updates, work dates, questions, budgets, needs and problems.

Indoor and Outdoor space planning was done. Exhibition areas were staked out, labeled and identified.

The Education Committee consulted all sub-committees to ensure information, displays and presentations were in accordance with U.T guidelines, practices and growing methods.

Booklets were conceived, created and illustrated with information provided by committees as to content and particular points of interest featured in displays. Booklets allowed space for questions, notes and comments to be shared.

Committees installed hardscape including fish pond, hollow tree stump, stone and statuary.

Members built items such as a soil tunnel, Mr. McGregor's shed and a themed reception area.

Maintenance, repairs and painting were done.

Greenhouse committee grew plants requested by committees. Other plants were loaned or donated by members insuring that all plant materials were grown and nurtured by MG volunteers and displayed healthy examples of plant material.

Gardens around the building and fairground entrances were weeded and monitored.

The square foot garden was planted to display ripe produce.

Shift coverage sign-up sheets completed ensuring appropriate MG coverage for all shifts, being mindful of special activity times for children, seniors, and special needs visitors.

Promotion and media included an article in the fair book, articles in the local newspaper, local radio coverage, flyers and signage. Materials available during the event included advertising for MG classes, questionnaires for programs of interest and handout reference material prepared in accordance with UT standards.

300 plants were received from our members 2 days prior to event and were identified, tagged, categorized.

PCMG set up the display.

An instructional meeting was held to relay info, proper care, opening and closing duties and answer questions for MG volunteers.

Shift log kept to communicate questions, comments, concerns and questionnaire results.

HOW HAS THE PROJECT BEEN FUNDED AND HOW HAVE THOSE FUNDS BEEN SPENT? 500 Words or less.

Funding of the project as follows:

Putnam County Master Gardeners:

*The PCMG membership voted unanimously on a budget of \$600 for the 2012 Putnam County Fair utilizing profits from our spring plant sale. The spring plant sale is the organizations greatest source of income. Proceeds are designated specifically for education and projects benefitting our community to further the Master Gardener mission.

*The Greenhouse Committee grew plants from donated seed for display and for the Children's Potting Shed giveaways. (PCMG Cost \$0)

*Members grew plants as donations or loaners for displays. (PCMG Cost \$0)

- *Greenhouse donated by Grower's Solution. (PCMG Cost \$0)
 - *Signage and banners were previously purchased and reused. (PCMG Cost \$0)
 - *Printing needs provided by UT Extension office. (PCMG Cost \$0)
 - *PCMG donated their time, talent and knowledge. (PCMG Cost \$0)
 - *Members loaned or donated additional items for exhibits including hardscape, kitchen stove and furnishings, stones and fish pond. (PCMG Cost \$0)
 - *Budget spent on soil, seed, soil amendments, paint, printing paper, stickers, office supplies, wood and other maintenance supplies. (PCMG Cost \$600)
- Putnam County Fair Board:
- *Utilities provided and paid for out of Fair Board budget. (PCMG Cost \$0)
 - *PCMG Building provided to PCMG's. (PCMG Cost \$0)
- The project came in on budget.

DESCRIBE THE OUTCOMES OF THIS PROJECT. HOW HAS IT AUGMENTED LEARNING, INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OR CHANGED PRACTICES TO ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE? INCLUDE THE METHODS YOU USED TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT. These impacts could be economical, educational, environmental, health or community based. 500 words or less.

Putnam County Master Gardeners utilized a format designed to foster a closer relationship between the public and Master Gardeners by building appreciation and awareness of the importance of agriculture. By understanding the connection between the land and their well-being, we encouraged the next generation to promote and preserve this critical environment. This goal is necessary to the future of agriculture well beyond the boundaries of Putnam County. We made learning fun, interactive, engaging and with great success. Our enchanted gardens delighted the young and young at heart equally.

Target Audience: A total of 3,781 members of the community toured our exhibits including individuals, families, men, women, children, seniors and special needs visitors. A counter was used to tally by shifts. The Special Needs event had 141 visitors while the Senior Day event had 118 visitors. 1300 children were given the Enchanted Garden booklet to complete during their visit.

53 Putnam County Master Gardener volunteers donated over 1500 hours in the development and implementation of the exhibit. Volunteers were encouraged to work on new projects to promote continued learning and camaraderie among the group.

Education: Master Gardener volunteers guided guests through the exhibits, answering questions and helping children with the completion of their booklets while interacting and engaging with the public. Many guests returned during the 10 day event to continue their learning and discovery. Information was provided for further learning opportunities and classes.

Environmental: Master Gardener volunteers set the example of responsible environmental gardening practices and stewardship advising guests using UT Extension approved methods.

Economical: Master Gardener volunteers displayed and related to guests economical ways to garden by small space gardening examples and dividing techniques.

Health: Master Gardener volunteers were able to discuss the health benefits of home grown produce.

Impact Methods: Counters were utilized and notes taken for demographic study. Booklets counted to determine number of children. Brochures and handouts utilized to determine gardening subject interest to the public. Adults were given a questionnaire to determine interest in future education and points of particular interest.

Community Impact: Guests were surprised and delighted to learn that nothing in our exhibit cost money. Many families are strained by the cost of entertainment at the county fair. Young children like Madison aged 5 asked “Will the gardens be at the fair again?” Jake, 8, very proudly told us he still has his plant from last year growing in his bedroom window. A lot of interest was generated and commented on with the use of the Enchanted Garden booklets for kids. A Fair Board Member stated “This display is wonderful. We received more compliments on this display than any other feature at the fair!” Another visitor said we did a great job and it just keeps getting “better and better!” A teacher told us her classroom has re potted their plants and will utilize our booklet in her curriculum. Areas of expressed interest included: Home irrigation, Vegetable Gardening, Lawn Care, Bulbs, Landscaping, Raised Bed Gardening, Herbs and Master Gardener Intern Classes.