COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Extension Services	Presenter(s):	Kim Jackson
Meeting Date:	Thursday, March 14, 2013	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Proclamation of March 16, 2013 as "Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Day".

Background/History/Details:

Since 1982, over 150 Fayette County residents have gone through the training program offered by the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Program.

These volunteers service Fayette County's citizens by educating residents on safe and effective gardening practices, natural resources protection, and conservation.

Through their volunteer work, the Master Gardeners have assisted citizens with plant clinics, school programs, manning phone hotlines, demonstration gardens, and other outreach programs. Last year, they contributed 5,442 volunteer hours which represent a saving of $107,489.38 that would otherwise have to be performed by paid staff. Despite serious financial cutbacks to Extension Services throughout Georgia, the Master Gardeners have continued to make educational outreach possible in Fayette County and the state.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Proclamation of March 16, 2013 as "Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Day".

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension

Fayette County Cooperative Extension Office
140 Stone Wall Ave. West
Suite 209
Fayetteville, GA 30214
770.305.5412

March 1, 2013

Fayette County Commissioner
140 Stone Wall Ave. West
Suite 100
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Dear Commissioner,

Fayette County Cooperative Extension would appreciate your support of our Master Gardener Extension Volunteers by proclaiming the third Saturday in March as "Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Day" for Fayette County.

Since 1982, over 150 County residents have gone through the training program offered by The University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension. These volunteers provide a valuable service to our office by helping us to educate county residents on safe and effective gardening practices, as well as natural resources protection and conservation. With their support, we are able to assist the citizens of our county through plant clinics, classes, school programs, phone hotlines, demonstration gardens, and other outreach programs. The 5442 hours given in 2012 represent a savings of $ 107, 489.38 to the county if the work were to be performed by paid staff. Because of serious cutbacks to Extension, our volunteers make continued educational outreach possible here in our county and across the state.

If granted, the proclamation can be mailed to the above address. If you need any further information, please call. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kim Jackson

County Extension Coordinator

PROCLAMATION

MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER APPRCIATION DAY

WHEREAS, The Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program is a national volunteer horticultural education training program sponsored by Cooperative Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the counties of the cooperating states; and

WHEREAS, The Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program provides avid gardeners with intensive education in research-based horticultural principles and pest control practices; and

WHEREAS, New Master Gardener Extension Volunteers must initially provide at least 50 hours of volunteer service through their County Extension Offices, working on Community and school garden projects, conducting garden clinics, and answering questions; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County's Master Gardener Extension Volunteers, in 2012, volunteered 5,442 hours—representing $107,489.38 in labor, traveled 25,018 miles, answered 1,603 telephone calls, and provided technical information and services to 5,002 citizens; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, March 16, 2013, Master Gardener Extension Volunteers throughout the State of Georgia and Fayette County will celebrate Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Day by providing horticultural education, plant and soil testing clinics, and lectures in shopping malls and gardening centers; and

WHEREAS, In the spirit of volunteerism, Master Gardener Extension Volunteers have provided and contine to provide valuable services to Georgia communities through education and training programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fayette County Board of Commissioners proclaims Saturday, March 16, 2013 as

MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER DAY

and in so doing the Board thanks all of the Master Gardener Extension Volunteers who graciously serve the citizens of Fayette County with their time, talents, and treasure, and the Board calls upon all citizens to consider volunteering with the Master Gardener Extension Program.

So Proclaimed this 14th Day of March 2013

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

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Steve Brown, Chairman