

Kanawha County Master Gardener Program

For Immediate Release

Do you wish that your thumb was just a little greener? You can improve your gardening skills, meet people interested in gardening and spread your knowledge to others in Kanawha County. All of this is possible as a volunteer with the Master Gardener certification class offered by the West Virginia University Extension Service.

Beginning the first week of March, the WVU Kanawha County Extension Service will be offering a 10 week course meant to expand the knowledge of home gardeners in the county. Topics will include vegetable gardening, ornamentals, small and tree fruits, soils and fertility, botany, and pest management. Expert instructors, including extension specialists from West Virginia University and extension agents from other counties will be on hand to teach gardeners how to make their own home gardens flourish.

Community service is also a big part of the Master Gardener program. Master Gardeners in Kanawha County volunteer their time to plant and maintain public gardens, teach others about gardening, share their love of gardening with children and provide horticultural therapy to people such as nursing home residents. These efforts from the Master Gardeners help to create a greener, more vibrant community in Kanawha County.

Master Gardeners in West Virginia are also looking forward to October 2011, when the International Master Gardener Conference will be held right here in Charleston. The theme "Going Green in a Wild and Wonderful" will put the focus on sustainable gardening and ways that home gardeners can be more environmentally and community conscious.

If you would like to join the Kanawha County Master Gardeners and make that thumb a little greener, please contact the WVU Kanawha County Extension Service at (304) 768-1202 or email John.Porter@mail.wvu.edu for an application.

The ten week Kanawha County Master Gardener class begins Tuesday, March 3 and will continue on Tuesday evenings until May 5. The cost of the class is \$75, which covers the instruction manual, class materials and a nametag. Certification requires the 30 hour class instruction plus 30 hours community service within the following year. For more information, visit <http://kanawha.ext.wvu.edu/agriculture>.