URI Master Gardener Program
Pollinator Education
January 26, 2017

Photo: Sue Dunn
Providing juried, verifiable, science- and knowledge-based information to the public via education in...

- Consumer Horticulture
- Youth Environmental Education
- Small-scale Livestock
- Water Quality
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Food Safety
- Nutrition
- 4-H Leadership
- Development
- Sustainable Energy
- Plant Protection
- Aquaculture

We bring University resources to EVERYONE.
The mission of the URI Master Gardener Program is to educate RI citizens in environmentally-sound gardening practices through the dissemination of factual, research-based information.

Public Education → Behavior Change
Train the Trainer

Phase 1: Volunteers
Learn Something New

Phase 2: Teach Others
40th Anniversary
URI Master Gardener Program 1977-2017!

• 600 active volunteers
• 115 class of 2017
Our Services in 2016 Reached…

8000+ people

URI Gardening & Environmental Hotline

9%  1,943 clients

“Learn Locally” Public Presentations

42%  2,590 clients

Public Information Weeks and Soil Testing

75%  4,562 clients
Demonstration Projects

40 + Demonstration Projects

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educated</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>Youth:</td>
<td>1,943</td>
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<td>Adults:</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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Pollinator Emphasis in 2016

- Norman Bird Sanctuary
- East Farm Demonstration Garden
- Charlestown Schoolhouse Garden
- Newport Harbor Walk
Desourdy School Garden Mentors

- Trained URI Master Gardeners paired with schools to offer technical guidance and advice to ensure long term success
- 40+ schools in program, 22 municipalities
- Plant donations, free seeds, full soil test, other resources
- Many teachers interested in butterfly and pollinator gardens

500 adults educated, 12,000 students pre-K - 12
Public Education Events

Project Open House
• 16 projects | 800 visitors
• A brand new event!

Symposium
• 242 attendees
• Sessions on natives, pollinators, edible gardening

East Farm Spring Festival
• 4,000 visitors | 33%
• Project showcase, hands-on gardening demos, and a learning walkway

5,000 total visitors!
RI Native Plant Guide

www.web.uri.edu/rinativeplants/
Digital Media

756 followers – Instagram
URI Master Gardeners educated 15,000-20,000 clients educated in 2016!

Did we change their behavior?
Top 3 Behavior Changes We Encouraged

Year End Survey

1000 clients surveyed, 20% return rate

94% learned something new

MGP Clients began or increased the following:

1. Identify plant problems before taking action against them
2. Grow food plants
3. Amend soils correctly for vegetables, garden beds or lawn
Public Events
Demonstration Projects
Pollinator Emphasis
2016
Symposium: Gardening with a Purpose

March 5, 2016
Natives, Pollinators, Edible Gardening

Photos: Linda Hogan
East Farm Spring Festival

May 14, 2017

Learning Walkway - Pollinator Conservation Kiosk
Pollinator Conservation Demonstrations
Pollinator plant displays
2016 School Garden Conference

- Pollinator Workshop at 2016 Conference, East Farm Demo Garden
- 100 attendees
• Pollinator emphasis for 2016
• Open House - 500+ visitors
Friends of the Waterfront's Harbor Walk Garden Project

In Collaboration with URI Master Gardener Program
Help Us Set A New Course for Public Access
Plant Dyingly Plants Along the Newport Waterfront

Volunteers Needed
Coming This Year
Monarch Butterfly Habitats

He who plants a garden, plants happiness.
Proverb

www.newportwaterfront.org
Contact - info@newportwaterfront.org
Like us on Facebook

Newport Harbor Walk
URI Master Gardener Program
Newport Harbor Walk

Newport Maritime Center
Monarch Butterfly Habitat Demonstration

Monarch Butterfly Boat Planter

URI Master Gardener Harbor Walk Garden Project
Pollinator Education
Future Efforts
Desourdy School Garden Mentors

2017 Goal:

Strengthen collaboration between school gardeners in need of guidance on pollinator gardens and and URI Master Gardener Volunteers engaged in RI Wild Plant Society Seed Starters projects and Rhody Native
Focus Area

Why?
An opportunity to concentrate our internal training, volunteer efforts and partnerships in a strategic way toward a relevant issue facing RI communities.

Step 1: Train MG Volunteers
Step 2: Educate the Public
Step 3: Measure knowledge gain and behavior change
Focus Area Process

1. Change in Condition
2. Train MG Volunteers
3. Did we change behavior?
4. Plan
5. Evaluate (Survey)
6. Educate Public
How can the URI Master Gardener Program be value added to other efforts in the state and University?

We consulted the following partners:
- Pollinator working group (RIDEM and RI House of Representatives)
- RI Invasive Species Council
- Civic Alliance for a Cooler RI
- RI Natural History Survey
- RI Wild Plant Society
- Sue Anderbois, Director of Food Strategy

URI Faculty:
- Dr. John Taylor, Agroecology (URIMGP FACULTY ADVISOR)
- Dr Laura Meyerson, Natural Resource Science Department
- Brett Still, Natural Resource Science Department
Focus Area: Land Stewardship
2017-2019
Land Stewardship Behavior Change Goals

1. Recognize URI Cooperative Extension as a science-based resource
2. Preserve biodiversity and pollinators
3. Conserve water and soil resources
4. Reduce pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management
Land Stewardship Volunteer Training

- Jan 21 Ecobeneficial Gardening, Kim Eierman
- March 23 MG Meeting at 6pm - Resilient Landscapes, Dr. Taylor
Goal: Preserve Biodiversity and Pollinators

Behaviors to promote:
• Plant natives
• Avoid invasives
• Habitat for pollinators and beneficials

Photo: Sue Dunn
Biodiversity and Pollinator Volunteer Training in 2017

- April 27 Cont Ed class - Cutting Edge Pollinator Conservation, Scott Maclvor
- May 23 MG Meeting at 6pm - Pollinator Working Group

Field Sessions
- Invasive removal and restoration at Canonchet
- Native plants, Rhody Native at Norman Bird Sanctuary
Goal: Reduce Pesticide Use (Integrated Pest Management)

Behaviors to promote:
• Identify diseases/pests before taking action
• Right plant for the right place
• Use alternatives to pesticides whenever possible
IPM Volunteer Training

Diagnostics Skill Building Series:
Taught by URI Extension Staff

- Part 1 - Pest Updates and Resources - February 23
- Part 2 - Trees, Shrubs and Perennials - May, 2017
- Part 3 - Vegetables - August, 2017
Questions?

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URI Cooperative Extension