

Sample Denver Volunteer Opportunities

The One Required Activity:

Farmers Market at Cherry Creek Shopping Center – First and University 9 hours minimum

What: Answering questions and looking at plant samples brought to the MG open-air booth at the market. Bring your MG notebook. A limited number of reference books will be on-hand. This effort is really our satellite location outside of downtown.

When: 2007 market days are Saturdays beginning in May, Wednesday markets are added later, and markets end in September. The day is divided into two shifts: 7am to 10am and 10am to 1pm on Saturday, 8:30am to 10:45am and 10:45am to 1:15pm on Wednesday.

Volunteer Activity Choices:

Answering Denver County Master Gardener Phone line at the CSU Cooperative Extension Office -- 888 East Iliff Avenue Denver 80210.

What: Answering garden questions phoned in to our office either live, left on voice mail., or sent by e-mail. An extensive gardening reference library is available to help you. Get better acquainted with our office, our resources, and what we offer the public.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays through September.

Writing for newspapers – mostly a spring thing

What: Writing primarily for the April to June garden supplements in both the RM News and Denver Post, occasionally for the main living section of the newspaper. You will be writing on behalf of CSUCE and will receive a byline credit as a MG. Writing will be from the research-based standpoint of what CSU can contribute to Colorado gardening dialogue.

When: Signups are available in late March for the "Q and A" and "This week in the garden" columns written by MG's along the Front Range to be published in April through June. Some 400-500 word feature stories are a possibility. Note that these are third person features from CSUCE and are not personal columns. Work with Carl on feature ideas that should be completed in early spring to have the best chance of being published.

Writing for the Denver MG web page – anytime - www.denvermastergardener.com

What: Articles are short because of screen length and the browsing habit of web viewers. A 3 main point article is ideal.

When: Flexible. You can write on your own schedule and submit articles at anytime. You will get credit for your research and writing time.

Habitat for Humanity –

What: Coach new homeowners on landscape planting and care. The landscaping comes after homes are built so often at the mercy of construction schedules. This is an opportunity to work with a very appreciative audience who may have little experience with landscape care.

When: Weekends and possibly other times TBA.

Growing gardens with those in need – EarthLinks partner

What: Helping homeless and shelter residents to garden at several central Denver agencies through our partnership with EarthLinks. This is a horticultural therapy project in action primarily for adults but can involve younger people. A chance to visit agency sites providing services to a variety of people in need. Gardens primarily focus on vegetable growing although program participants also grow other kinds of plants. Produce is used by participants and agencies where it is grown.

When: TBA but weekday, daytimes

Gardening with Seniors -

What: This is a horticultural therapy project with 12-15 senior citizens at the "Gardens at Saint Elizabeth" facility with established gardens at 32nd and Federal. A special audience to work with that requires lots of patience. This is about spending time with appreciative people, not cranking out vegetables and flowers.

When: Weekday daytimes

Gardening with children – Butterfly Hope partner

What: Helping elementary schoolchildren at Cheltenham Elementary, 1580 Julian, learn about plants in a school garden and some science in the classroom. If you like working with children, have fun helping them in the garden. A well-organized and focused program that produces good learning outcomes.

When: Weekday daytimes in summer

Plant Select Division at the DBG Plant Sale

What: Educating people in helping them purchase Plant Select plants at the annual Denver Botanic Gardens Plant Sale. Note that any volunteer work you may want to do for other parts of the DBG sale does not count towards MG hours. We only work together on Plant Select, a joint project between DBG, CSU and the green industry. See the Plant Select website for more info at <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/psel/index.html>

Speakers Bureau

What: Speak to mostly adult and some school groups about gardening topics. Many prepared talks with computer projected visuals are available to support speakers. A way to grow yourself and learn from others in sharing your enthusiasm for gardening.

When: As groups want a speaker, daytimes, evenings or weekends.

Denver County Extension Plant Sale

What: This is a fund raising event for Extension programs. The event is a sale and an educational opportunity for the public. As volunteers answer the public's plant questions. Volunteers help with growing plants and planning the event.

When: January to May