

Volunteer of the Season

Terry Thir



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Spring 2023

Meet Terry Thir from Charles County!

Year Joined: 2010

Hours of Service: 1,571.5

Project or Subprogram: Melwood Horticultural Therapy, Plant Sale, Extension Office Demonstration Garden, Peter Rabbit Puppet Show, Bay-Wise

Favorite Plant: *Asclepias tuberosa*

Why Terry was Nominated:

Terry was nominated by her coordinator, Kaitlyn Baligush, because she is a champion of the Master Gardener program in Charles county. She wears many hats as a UME Master Gardener in Charles County. She is a volunteer for the program at Melwood Recreation Center, the coordinator for the plant sale, and the co-chair of the demonstration garden committee. She has navigated some tense situations to move important projects forward. She also serves as a member of the MG steering committee.

More About Terry:

Terry was introduced to gardening as a child by her grandfather. He was known as having the prettiest yard in Accokeek! He loved flowers and planted them throughout his property. He had several large vegetable and cut flower gardens. He gave Terry's grandmom beautiful bouquets weekly. He taught all of his 17 grandkids how to garden and compost. Terry shared and continues his passion and has created vegetable and flower gardens with her grandchildren.

She retired in December 2009 from a 35-year career working for USDA. She had no idea what her future would look like after retirement. Led by a passion for beautiful flowers and gardening, she enrolled in the UME MG Basic Training course in February 2010 and began her journey as a Master Gardener.

Terry wears many hats in the UME MG Charles County program. She serves as project leader for the group's annual plant sale and co-chair for their Demonstration Gardens Committee. She is a member of the NatureFest project, and a Bay-Wise MG. She also helps to manage the UME MG - Charles County social media presence and contributed to the development of the new website. She has previously served as the Chair of the Steering Committee for three years and continues to serve as an advisor. One of her most unique projects has been helping to establish the "Misadventures of Peter Rabbit in Farmer McGregor's Vegetable Garden" puppet show. She loves playing the role of "Ripley Rat". The show is performed at various events and at the Charles County fair. She is thankful to the MG group in Delaware for allowing them to bring the puppet show to Charles County.

Some of the things that Terry likes most about the UME MG program are creating beautiful landscapes with flowers, trees and shrubs, giving back to her community, and being around like-minded people. She served as the project liaison for their Melwood project for five years, and is still a volunteer with the Melwood project. She helped design and install the pollinator garden there and now finds it so exciting to see all the pollinators and butterflies that are attracted to the gardens. She enjoys teaching and working with the clients at Melwood. They installed a sunflower tee-pee for children to explore. Learning how to grow in a greenhouse was a new and great experience for her. She has also helped grow and work in the vegetable garden there. Terry has had some truly magical experiences there. One day she was taking a closeup photo of a butterfly enjoying nectar on a flower, and to her surprise, a hummingbird flew up and was also trying to enjoy the nectar from the same flower!

We hope to all have as full of a MG experience as Terry!