

Loudoun County Master Gardeners

Demo Garden History Timeline

1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden beginning: 40 x 40 foot plot of barren ground: 10 raised beds 4' x 25', completely organic vegetable beds– idea by Inge Radel, tilled by Charles Beardsley. • Some of the rocks unearthed are what hold small MG sign in place today at northeast corner.
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of raised beds increased to 14
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red clover planted in south field area where Drought Garden is currently
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterfly garden established. Original shape had path down the middle. Designed by Debora Youmans • Drip irrigation added to raised vegetable beds by Bob Roth • Strawberry and blueberry beds added south of veggie beds • Worm bins placed where Bulb bed is currently - developed by Cassandra Brenn • Number of raised beds increased to 16 • Herb beds planted down the middle aisle between raised beds
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Tuesdays in the Garden” lecture series started • Herbs and perennials moved and planted in raised bed 8B. • Irises planted in current location after crop of buckwheat turned over (Irises flourished) • Sunflowers planted in field where red clover was in previous years • Watermelons, pumpkins and cantaloupes planted in area where Wedding garden is currently
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brambles (raspberries and blackberries) planted at north entrance to garden • South field area planted with sweet potatoes
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Arbor entrance (cypress pergola) designed and constructed by C. Beardsley • AAS vegetables were planted for the year in the raised beds • First year of garden ‘mentoring’ started • 2,222 lbs. of produce donated to Interfaith Relief • 5 fruit trees were planted: 3 apple trees: Varieties are Liberty, Enterprise and Gold Rush. They are semi-dwarf and grafted to emla 7 rootstock.. 2 pear trees: Seckel and Moonglow were planted. They are dwarf and grafted onto Farmingdale rootstock. Kristin Westfall and Verna McClain purchased the trees on 4/6/98 and the class of ‘98 planted them in early spring. The trees were purchased for their resistance to disease.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Garden added • Ground cover sampler area added under fruit trees • Bulb Bed planted. Diane Gray researched and designed bed • Evergreen garden established (rather than turf area) included 5 whiskey barrel planters • Ornamental Grass/Perennial bed established • Brambles moved to south end of garden by Virginia Carney and Stephen Dunbar • Fig trees planted (from Edible Landscapes) • Rose bed mixed with perennials planted in center of garden where Herb bed is today • V. Carney researched building the shift trellis and split rail fence and contracted fence men from Bentonville, VA to complete • Heirloom vegetables were planted for the year in raised beds

2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irises donated by Albert Bullock and planted along with others in Iris bed • Shade Garden started under pine trees • Water wise garden and stone wall planning began (later called the Drought Tolerant bed) • Herbs moved into 2 raised veggie beds – Aromatic, Kitchen, Healing and Dying • Kiwi planted at front arbor in June (from Edible Landscapes) • Dove tree planted in Drought garden for memorial to Stephen Dunbar in May • Memorial bench for S. Dunbar placed in garden in June • “Tuesdays in the Garden” expanded to include last Saturday of the month. Attendees sat on bales of hay • Square foot garden concept researched for 2 raised beds • Podium built by Kelsey Clegg and installed for classes on hay bales in May • French drain dug in fall • Moon garden/Annual bed planted
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 of the raised beds were framed with oak by Darlene Lowry and Elaine Meilahn, wood donated by Andrew Gerachis. Thus starting a limited square foot garden. • Construction of stone wall around drought tolerant garden began – Kristi Kelly donated first load of rocks. Construction took 2 years. • Stepping stones added throughout bulb bed • Dahlia bed established w/ 15 different varieties by Jennifer Juengling (Bed 8A) • Drought tolerant bed plantings established by Nancy Purcell
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugosa Rose beds were planted at the north Arbor entrance • Construction of initial Monticello fence began around shade garden using 4 ft. tall thin bamboo canes (took a couple of seasons) • 10 year anniversary! • Drought conditions • Compost courtyard demonstrating a variety of containers to use for composting • Dove tree perished by girdled trunk and subsequent insect damage as well as drought conditions • Split rail fence between Children’s garden and Compost built by Kim Jones and family
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Struggled w/ weather – severe drought conditions • Additional Irises added to existing bed, again donated by A. Bullock • Peach tree planted in corner of Children’s garden
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shed built by Donnie Walker and donated to Garden in June • Stairs to shed built by Tom Fioramonti. • Grandma’s garden established (previously a bed for annuals) • Shade garden expanded • Drip irrigation updated/expanded • Initial Monticello fence completed • Stone wall completed around drought garden • Went to Adopt-A-Bed management of garden • Garden parties w/ speakers • Installed permanent sign for Garden • Scarecrow contests started for farm tour

2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pergola classroom built by Barbara Arnold, Tom Fioramonti, Dave Hellums, Arthur Osteen, Denise Palmer and Sara Reed • White oak frames placed around raised beds • Front Arbor walkway rebuilt (second one) • Wood compost bins constructed by T. Fioramonti, D. Hellums, B. Arnold, Debbie Herbert, Lisa Doseff and Wendi Pierce. • Bulb bed redone with all bulbs, corms and rhizomes by Janette Sawyer • Lunch N Learn talks Tues and Thurs. replaced “Tuesdays in the Garden” talks
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedding Garden completed under Sharon Harris’ direction – designed by Jill Blitzer (MG contest winner) • Heritage flower and vegetable garden established by Juanita Koilpillai c. 1600 – 1720 • America’s Anniversary Garden planted (Award winner with red zinnias, white petunias and blue salvia) by Sally Barlow and Lisa Doseff • 750 lbs. of produce donated to Inter Faith Relief due to Denise Palmer’s incredibly endless effort • Compost worm bin started by Dave Hellums
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicinal and Kitchen Herb beds established by J. Sawyer and Linda Shotton as separate gardens • Herb trellis constructed in medicinal herb bed by Karen Olgren • Speaker podium refurbished and installed at pergola classroom site • South end Arbor trellis constructed between brambles by T. Fioramonti • Second Monticello fence constructed around shade garden – using thicker 6 ft. tall thick bamboo canes – constructed by Mame Ward and Elaine Hawn • 2nd year of America’s Anniversary Garden planted in raised bed area • Boxes/mailboxes installed to house garden flyers • Mulch bin and 5th compost bin constructed • Lost apple tree to vole damage, new Liberty apple tree planted in fall. It is a semi-dwarf MM111 Rootstock from Century Farm Orchards, Reidsville, NC • Heirloom vegetables planted in veggie area • Almost 1,400 lbs. of produce donated to Inter Faith Relief, once again due to D. Palmer’s leadership efforts • Heritage garden reflecting plants from c. 1750 • Laminated plant ID signage placed throughout the garden by Linda vanSeeters • 2557 hours of volunteer time were put in to maintain the garden in all its glory
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation pipes installed to bring water access closer to gardens. 3 Water stations were built: in veggie area, by shade garden, next to compost bins • Water fountain installed in bulb bed in March. Fountain was a gift from class of ‘07, other MGs and donations from Merrifield Gardens. • Electricity added by P&R at shed and mailbox post. • Support built to reinforce pergola ‘roof’ • Ornamental Grass bed redesigned with all grasses and sedges by Barb Bailey. • New weeping cedar arbor support designed and constructed by T. Fioramonti. D. Hellums and J. Kelly assisted with installation and staining. • Addressing deer problem in raised beds with temporary fencing around entire vegetable area and “gates” at either end. Approved by P&R, deer fence purchased. • Heirloom and AAS vegetables planted in veggie area.

2008 Cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations of fruit, vegetables and herbs to Interfaith Relief topped out at 1,870 pounds • Heritage garden reflecting plants from c. 1770. • Rocks, donated by MG Juanita Koilpillai from her Waverly Farm were placed around butterfly garden. • Children's Garden re-creation was huge success with alphabet garden, fairy garden, dinosaur forest, touch and smell garden, native plant wall, worm bin, sand pit, hopscotch, toad house, picnic table 'tent' of passion flowers, weather board and a maze full of colorful plants. • Evergreen Garden got a new dwarf cypress to add to its S. Dunbar memorial garden • Steven Dunbar dinner bell was secured in the Evergreen Garden. • A water screen was designed and built by Larry Burk. It surrounds the main water faucet area near the pergola classroom • Stones were placed as a floor under the east facing bench in the Wedding garden. The stones were also place in the shade garden for stepping stones and as a low 'wall' in the drought tolerant garden to replace the landscape plastic edging. • Extensive plans were submitted by Sharon Harris to P&R to expand the garden in several areas. The plans were to include a native shrub area by the shed and pergola, grapes on the east side of the veggie bed and a shrub border to disguise the compost bins. P&R approved to expand the garden by 5 feet on the east side and 5 feet on the west side only around the veggie area. The ground work (sulfur, newspaper and mulch) was put down in late October to prepare for spring plantings of blueberries on the east. Newspaper and mulch was also put down on the west side for the grapes. • A turf grass demonstration garden idea was put forth to P&R and approved. Specific details to follow. • The west side of the shade garden (outside deer fence) was expanded to include more ground cover and improve the appearance. • 4 additional realtor boxes were installed to house garden brochures in the grass bed, evergreen garden, shade garden and drought garden • First year for kiwi harvest and banner year for fig harvest • Replanted area around new apple tree and large pampas grass with liriopse border, leadwort groundcover and day lilies. • Finished metal edging border around blackberry plants • DG hosted its first Homecoming Garden Party in early October. Over 70 MGs and friends attended. • Large intern class of '08 with around 35 individuals worked diligently and quickly, keeping DG leadership team searching for projects to keep them learning and busy! • 2,987 volunteer hours were completed in the DG to enhance and maintain its beauty.
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veggie team established as 2 teams. Each team devoted to one side of veggie garden – worked very well. • Planted blueberries Mid March • Turf beds were tilled by P&R in early March. 7 Turf plots installed in May. Sod is from VT. • Community Service Day March 21st was extremely successful with 73 people assisting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Installed deer fence around entire vegetable area ○ Spread 5 truck loads of white mulch along the pathways ○ Pruned every plant in every garden

<p>2009 Cont.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unloaded barn and placed hardscape in garden ● Planted grapes in April: 6 table grape varieties – three reds (Concord, Mars, and Steuben) and three whites (Edelweiss, Lakemont, and Ontario). We chose the most disease resistant except for Concord, which is popular with homeowners. To support our vines for the expected leaf canopy and fruit, we installed permanent metal trellising. During this first year of growth, we pruned minimally to allow the vines to become established. ● Planted 2 smoke trees and a fringe tree in new ornamental border in May ● Bleeding hearts, Pieris, and Bear’s Britches were planted on outside of shade garden ● Elaborate arbor built for children’s garden, new picnic table for children’s garden, new podium top, butterfly house and extensive compost shed built by L. Burk ● Figs suffered die-back after hard frost in late March/Early April. We had to prune back severely in May but they are rebounding nicely. ● Rocks around kitchen herb bed repositioned in a flatter arrangement so thyme can grow between. ● Moved Heritage rose to outside of drought tolerant garden. ● Ornamental border mulched, edged and timbered to keep out runner grass. ● Replaced small bamboo fence in front of Children’s garden ● Removed most of the pachysandra from fruit trees to lessen diseases ● Fruit Trees: Banner harvest of peaches from one tree – 76 pounds due to regimented spray schedule, thinning out and bore control; Apple and pear trees suffered from lack of sun due to shading from pine trees and close proximity to each other as well as fire blight. Need to consider removal of 2 to open up area. ● Installed new sign at entrance detailing when garden was est. and how it is chemical free. ● Made green plant IDs for the natives in every garden and labeled all the plants in the Children’s ABC garden with smaller plant ID signs. ● 2 more plots est. near turf for thyme steppables & blue star ground cover demonstration ● DG Tours/Classes included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Daisy Troop 793 (to earn badge), April 19 ➤ Virginia’s 76th Anniversary Historic Garden Week - Place of Interest, April 19-20 ➤ St. James Preschool tour, April 23 ➤ LC Spring Tour Stop May 16/17 and Season Opening for Public ➤ Ashby Pond Retirement Home garden tour & presentation, May 28 ➤ Guilford Elementary field trip, June 3 ➤ Cascades Ladies tour, June 12 ➤ Garden to Table lecture “My garden is planted, now what”, June 20 and again on Oct. 17 “Composting, Winter Garden chores and Putting your Garden to Bed”. ➤ Lunch ‘N Learns: 1st Tuesday of the month, 6/2, 7/7, 8/4, 9/1 ➤ 13 Children’s Programs 10 – 11:30, Tuesdays or Saturdays ➤ Exercise Classes: Tai Chi – Thursdays at 8 moved to Tuesdays at 10 ➤ July 4th open to the public for the first time. Over 350 visitors. ➤ Mom’s Club of Ashburn w/ 2/3 yr olds., July 20 ➤ York County MG’s visit, July 23rd ➤ Unscheduled children’s class on Wiggle Worms, Sept. 1 ➤ Ashburn Mother’s group - Children’s program for 3 and under, Sept. 23 ➤ Children’s workshop on garden clean up and composting, Oct. 12
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<p>2009 Cont.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Daisy and Girl Scout troop bulb planting service work, Oct. 16 ➤ LC Fall Tour Stop for making Scarecrows, Oct. 17/18 ➤ North Spring Behavioral Health group tour and talk, Nov. 10 • Attached gutter and drain pipe to tool shed and secured rain barrel to catch the rain • Redesigned seating in bench planters for more people to sit and gaze at fountain • Clock/vane donated as garden art • Began to redesign bulb bed in Oct., planted out wine barrels w/ bulbs & pansies • Confirmed garden leaders for 2010: Rugosa Roses, medicinal herb bed, bulb bed, butterfly areas, heritage garden, children’s garden and wedding garden. • Garden was the site for the second annual Garden Party 9/9/09 • Planted topiary boxwood in North corner of Grandma’s garden in November • Since establishing MG program as non-profit, first time to apply for NGA grant for Children’s Garden & Workshops. • Container gardening goal was to create pots that would look good on a patio that contained both ornamental and useful plants. Very successful and beautiful display with patio chairs and a hibachi as planters, to name just a few. • 3,034 MG volunteer hours put in this year at DG • Approx. 1,925 lbs. of produce donated to Interfaith Relief in 2009
<p>2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Service Day, April 3rd, was organized in conjunction with Keep Leesburg Beautiful Day • Veggie team organized with one Leader and 3 co-leaders • First year to entertain Saturday work hours - mildly successful at first, then not so much. • Square Foot gardening planted this year as strong interest from public arose • Constructed 2 raised beds for children’s garden, new podium top, rain barrel stand • Planned and planted small corner of drought garden opposite vitex tree • MG Intern, Lynda Johnson, painted reciprocal Children’s Garden sign for field side entrance • MG Intern, Dave Sheckler, put down pavers like a patio around compost shed • DG Tours/Classes included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ LC Spring Tour Stop May 15/16 and Season Opening for Public ➤ Daisy Troop Tour & Activity, April 27 ➤ May 15/16, Spring Tour Stop and Season Opening of garden to Public ➤ Ashby Pond’s group tour, May 18 ➤ St. James Preschool tour, June 9 ➤ Cascades Ladies tour, June 11 ➤ Ashburn Mother’s club, June 16 ➤ G2T lecture “Harvesting Summer Crops, Planning & Planting Fall Crops”, June 19 ➤ Lunch ‘N Learns: 1st Tuesday of the month June through September ➤ 12 Children’s Programs 10 – 11:30, Saturdays ➤ July 4th open to the public for the second time. ➤ Doug Fabboli, from Fabboli Vineyard in Leesburg, brought 3 LC teachers to tour garden as part of their internship with LC businesses. ➤ LC Fall Farm tour stop Oct. 16/17: Children’s goodie bags, decorate pumpkins, drought garden opening, G2T talks on composting and Q&A ➤ Girl Scout troop 380, Tour/class Oct. 28 • Redesigned and planted teapot herb garden • Harvested first grapes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced Children’s Garden fence with bamboo (widening entrance) • Put out ‘seek and find’ flyer for Children’s Garden • Redesigned Iris bed, built rock wall • Completed planting ornamental border with plants from other areas in DG • Planted pulmonaria plants in shade garden and added ornamental ball/stand • Cut down diseased pear tree and pruned back diseased apple tree • Planted lirioppe and Irish Moss as ground cover alternatives to turf in outside plots • Identified and labeled plants in bulb bed, began rearranging bulbs • Confirmed garden leaders for 2011: Rugosa Roses, medicinal herb bed, heritage garden, shade garden, children’s garden, fruits and trees. • Redesigned and planted new drought garden area where yuccas were • Placed signs out to deter produce theft after apples and pears were picked clean one evening. Several hundred pounds of fruit were stolen. • Received garden art donations from Robert Martin (Normalee’s brother) for shade garden sign and John Raymond for drought garden sculpture • Lifted sinking rocks throughout garden • Managed 35 interns throughout the working season • 2,583 MG volunteer hours put in this year at DG • Approx. 1,352 lbs. of produce donated to Interfaith Relief
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold winter/ice storms caused pine trees above shade garden to lose many large limbs breaking deer fence. • Trainee day, March 22nd, took the place of spring community service day. • 3 benches installed in March: Stone bench donated by class of 2010 for evergreen garden area, metal butterfly design bench donated by Chuck Mitchell (widow of MG Fran Mitchell, class of 2008), Fran Mitchell memorial bench installed. It was purchased with donations from the public as well as the DG budget and inscribed with MG logo and a memorial plate in honor of Fran. • Gold Rush apple tree and Peach tree were taken down due to diseases. Apple tree had rust and fire blight. Peach tree had bores, limb damage from storms and gummosis. • 20 English Boxwoods were donated by Country Springs Nursery due to mite damage. All 20 were planted in and around the garden. Lost one. • Redesigned and planted Dunbar Memorial Garden by Leslie Solitario and Glenda Parsons • Designed and installed 3 foot tall picket fence around shade garden area. Finishing touches flowed into 2012 • Installed shelf over compost bin to help air circulation • Redefined Rugosa rose bed edge, mulched • Classes/Tours included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ April 2nd, Garden is site for Keep Leesburg Beautiful kickoff. Info table set up and kid’s activity available. ➤ May 21/22, Spring Farm Tour Stop and Season Opening of garden to Public ➤ May 23rd, Daisy Girl Scout troop tour/workshop 3:30 ➤ Lunch ‘N Learns: 1st Tuesday of the month, 6/7, 7/5, 8/2, 9/6 ➤ 12 Children’s Programs Saturdays 10:30 – 11:30 ➤ July 4th open to the public ➤ Sept. 19th, Garden tour ➤ Oct. 4, Home schooled classroom, 5th & 6th graders ➤ Oct. 15/16, Fall Farm Tour Stop

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed 22 interns throughout the working season • Moved into a new storage area • 2,088 MG volunteer hours put in this year at DG • Approx. 2,181 lbs. of produce donated to Interfaith Relief
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold frame and Heritage Garden sign made by Denise Palmer • Harvested 60 lbs. of pears • Planted butterfly weed in butterfly garden • Overhaul of Children’s garden to include cannas for a fence/barrier from walkway, large beautiful banana palms and tri-color cannas to play/hide in, a sunflower corner and beefed up touch and feel plants in the raised beds. • Dedicated the garden to our MG Horticulturalist and friend, Debbie Dillion, with a plaque and ‘retirement’ party as the Bd. of Supervisors did away with the position in the budget. • Planted a camellia for Dunbar Memorial Garden • The class of 2012 donated and planted a Catawba Rhododendron and dedicated it to Debbie Dillion along with a plaque. • Work on transitioning leadership roles • Redefined area around rock wall in Wedding Garden area • Removed lirioppe border from Orn. Grass bed, placed garden stones and mulched for new border • Replaced faded blueberry plant with new pink variety • Added a table and teapot planter to teapot herb bed • Installed chew guard to remaining part of deer fence, realigned it with the existing part • Installed wire guard around compost shed to deter groundhog from returning • Won Signature of Loudoun award for Public Landscapes • Replaced turf plots: Planted rhizomatous tall fescue for Irish moss and White clover for creeping thyme • Tours/Classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pr. William County tour, 4/19 ➤ CET classes ➤ Saturdays in the Garden – First Sat. May through August ➤ Spring Farm Tour Stop, May 19/20 ➤ Daisy Troop tour, 5/20 ➤ Ashby Ponds tour, 5/22 ➤ Woodlea Garden Club tour, 6/19 ➤ Town & Country Garden tour, 6/21 ➤ July 4th, Open to the public ➤ Loudoun Symphony concert, open to the public, 9/23 ➤ Oct. 20/21 Fall Farm Tour Stop • Managed 25 interns throughout the working season • Approx. 2,134 lbs. of produce donated to Interfaith Relief