

Loudoun County Master Gardeners

Demo Garden History Timeline

1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Plans were submitted 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 only 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. • 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 liriopé 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!
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