# Meet the Masters – A Suggested Recruiting Program

Purpose: to recruit members for the Master Gardener training class

Goal: to expose more people to the Master Gardener program and get them involved.

Chronological Order:

1. Set a date and time. Most are set up for early evening in order for those who work to be able to attend.

 Try to limit total time to 1 ½ hours maximum, including visiting and refreshments

1. Reserve a meeting place.
2. Set up committees for specific duties.

 Speaker(s) – Select 1 or 2 who will present an overall view of the MG program, a synopsis of your local program or a brief presentation on a specific gardening topic. Be sure to communicate your time suggestions.

 Publicity – the key to success! Advertise by any and all means available. Put out flyers at the nurseries and florist shops and every other place that will let

 you. Be sure to have some at the library. Personal invitations are always good.

 Food – you can have simple refreshments or if your group likes to entertain,

 have a variety of treats. That’s up to you and your members. Nice to offer an

 alternative to coffee if your event is in the evening.

 Decorations, table set up, displays of your county Master Gardener projects

 Door prizes if you choose to have them

 Handouts. Make information available about Master Gardeners and about your county program. Be sure to include the recruiting brochure that includes the request for an application form.

 Greeters to welcome those who come. Also nice to have a sign-in book or

 sheet so you will have a record of those who come. Be sure you ask for mailing address and/or email for future contacts, especially if your Meet the Masters is several months before your training program. Provide stick on name tags.

1. Master Gardeners, please attend and wear your name tags. You are your county’s best advertising!

5. Possible schedule:

 15 minutes to meet and greet, get refreshments and find a seat.

 5 minutes - President or chair welcome, introduce themselves and first speaker

 15 minutes, 5 minutes questions – speaker

 5 minutes - President or chair point out project displays and introduce 2nd speaker

 15 minutes, 5 minutes questions – speaker

 10 minutes - Door prizes, if you do them

 Thank you for coming. Invite them to stay and visit and to pick up MG information as they leave. Always nice for guests to leave with something!

1. Clean up committee – everyone stays and it is done quickly!
2. Evaluation – talk with your group to see what worked, what you would change and then be sure someone keeps the notes for next time.

**Congratulations, you just had a great Meet the Masters event!**

 C76 Recruiting Event – 7/2014