

November 30, 2009

Questionnaire for WV Master Gardeners & Extension Agents

You are invited to participate in a questionnaire on master gardener programs in West Virginia. It is part of the research study on volunteer retention being conducted by Margaret Yaeger, a master gardener and a graduate student at Wheeling Jesuit University. This thesis study has the support of John L. Miller, WVU Extension Agent and John W. Jett, WVU Extension State Master Gardener Coordinator.

The questionnaire will take about twenty minutes to complete. There are no known risks to your participation in the study; and your responses can not be connected to your identity. By answering the questions, you have an opportunity to shape the direction of the master gardener program's future. *The data collected will be made available to the state membership retention committee.*

Instructions

Print out a copy of the questionnaire, fill it out, and then mail it back to me. *You do not need to put your name on the form; but please complete questions 16 and 17 which ask you to give the name of your county and to indicate your role (master gardener or Extension agent).*

The completed questionnaires will be treated confidentially and stored securely at the WVU Extension Service office in Ohio County. Results of the study will be shared at a monthly master gardener meeting, published in the newsletter, and kept on file at the Extension Service office. If you have any questions about the study or questionnaire, please contact Margaret Yaeger.

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Permission for this research has been granted by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Wheeling Jesuit University. If you have problems with the research, Dr. Craig Ruby, IRB Chairperson, can be contacted at 304-243-2278 or cruby@wju.edu.

Consent Form

By completing and returning this questionnaire, I give my implied consent to participate in this study. I understand that the study's purpose is to strengthen and improve the Ohio County and West Virginia Master Gardener Program.