COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Extension Services	Presenter(s):	Kim Toal, Sandy Edwards
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, February 11, 2014	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Proclamation of March 15, 2014 as "Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Day."

Background/History/Details:

Since 1982, over 150 Fayette County residents have gone through the training program offered by the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Program.

These volunteers service Fayette County's citizens by educating residents on safe and effective gardening practices, natural resources protection, and conservation.

Through their volunteer work, the Master Gardeners have assisted citizens with plant clinics, school programs, manning phone hotlines, demonstration gardens, and other outreach programs. Last year, they contributed 4,838 hours, traveled 26,303 miles, and provided 40,011 pounds of fresh vegetables and fruit to non-profit organizations. Their effort equates $158,458.98 in volunteer labor, travel and services.

Saturday, March 15, 2014 is Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Appreciation Day.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Proclamation of March 15, 2014 as "Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Day."

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	Yes	If so, when?	Thursday, March 14, 2013
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	No

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program is a national volunteer horticultural education training program sponsored by Cooperative Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the counties of the cooperating states; and

WHEREAS, The Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program provides avid gardeners with intensive education in research-based horticultural principles and pest control practices; and

WHEREAS, New Master Gardener Extension Volunteers must initially provide at least 50 hours of volunteer service through their County Extension Offices, working on Community and school garden projects, conducting garden clinics, and answering questions; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the Fayette County's Master Gardener Extension Volunteers contributed 4,838 hours of services, traveled 26,303 miles, and provided 40,011 pounds of fresh vegetables and fruit to nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, March 15, 2014, Master Gardener Extension Volunteers throughout the State of Georgia and Fayette County will celebrate Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Day by providing horticultural education, plant and soil testing clinics, and lectures in shopping malls and gardening centers; and

WHEREAS, In the spirit of volunteerism, Master Gardener Extension Volunteers have provided and continue to provide valuable services to Georgia communities through education and training programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fayette County Board of Commissioners proclaims Saturday, March 15, 2014 as

MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER DAY

and in so doing the Board thanks all of the Master Gardener Extension Volunteers who graciously serve the citizens of Fayette County with their time, talents, and treasure, and the Board calls upon all citizens to consider volunteering with the Master Gardener Extension Program.

So Proclaimed this 11th Day of March 2014

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

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Steve Brown, Chairman