

Daryle Thomas, Class of 1994



by Lisa Chouinard, EMG Program Asst.:

It is with sadness that we share the news of longtime Master Gardener from the Rutland County Chapter, Daryle Thomas passed away on December 17, 2020.

Daryle was one of the first to take the Master Gardener Course when it was offered in the Rutland area in 1994. He received his Lifetime Gold Badge in 2012, and contributed 1,514 volunteer hours to the Master Gardener program up until his recent death. He was always very proud of the fact that he was one of the first to volunteer at the

helpline when it was run from the Rutland area, and often shared his insight on how “things used to be done” when he first started volunteering for the program. I had many conversations with Daryle over the years, and he always made sure to include some kind of educational piece of information with me that often left me saying, “Hmmmmm.....interesting concept, Daryle”, or “I never knew that”! He was a very smart man and I was always intrigued by his point of view and wisdom on any particular subject he was currently focused on. Some of his interests included – how to make homemade cider, king of BBQ’s, proper harvesting and preserving of fiddleheads, soils expert, GMO’s, just to name a few. It was not uncommon for someone at the grocery store or post office to pull him aside and ask him a gardening question because they noticed his Master Gardener or Composter hat, or recognized his unique voice from listening to him on his *Morning Chats* radio segment with Kenn Hayes. Mr. Hayes once told him – “You have more unbelievable information about gardening than anyone I have ever known.” He was a very strong supporter of the EMG program and he will be missed.

Rutland Chapter volunteer, Rich Carlson, ‘04 shared the following:

Daryle's knowledge of Horticulture was unsurpassed, and he was referred by many as “Mr. Know It All”! He was my go-to person when many resources were exhausted. It was very difficult to stump his wisdom on most every subject matter. Daryle was well known on various radio talk shows and was a regular contributor with the Mountain Times newspaper. He was on hand at many of our information tables at the Vermont Fair and our annual plant sale. We will always remember Daryle's lengthy dissertations on questions that were asked of him. He did not march to the same drum as most.

I will always remember Daryle for his tied back ponytail and the hat that he always wore with a ribbon. When asked how he was doing...his response was always “Wonderful!” There are no calling hours or funeral service information at this time. He will always be remembered. Rest in Peace, Daryle !