

**Kate Mesaros Master Gardener Class of 2006
Project Leader, Wheeler Park Demo & Children's Garden
Northwest Chapter**



What is your favorite area of gardening to learn about?

My favorite area to learn about has to be soil health although I am no way an expert on the subject. I have a vegetable garden with raised beds so I have to keep an eye on what the plants get to eat.

What is your favorite pest to manage?

My favorite pest to “manage” has to be the tomato hornworm because it is such a nuisance but so obvious at the same time.

What would you consider to be your pride and Joy in your home garden?

My pride and joy has to be my annual crop of cut flowers. Once they start we always have flowers on the table and I’m able to send folks home with bouquets when they stop by.

What is your favorite gardening 'go to' book or other resource (educator, column, magazine, etc) for research and learning on horticulture topics?

My go to help with the veggie garden comes from “The Vegetable Garden Bible” by E. Smith. For general info I turn to Charlie Nardozzi’s monthly newsletters.

Do you have a favorite garden you like to visit? Favorite nursery to buy plants?

My favorite gardens are the Montreal Botanical Gardens and Longwood Gardens both of which I don’t get to nearly enough. Locally, I buy and get advice at Red Wagon Plants and Horsford’s nursery.

What EMG projects do you work on?

When I started the EMG program I volunteered at a bunch of different projects but for the last “few” years I’ve spent my time at Wheeler Park in South Burlington.

What has changed about gardening since you first became a Master Gardener? What hasn't changed?

What has changed for me over the years is the realization that organic is better. Dupont’s motto might have been Better Things through chemicals but I think that time has shown compost and attention is a better way to go.

What do you like about being a UVM Extension Master Gardener?

The best part about being an EMG is meeting a great group of people and learning something from each one. Gardeners are great people who really are interested in making the world a better place.