



As you know, Ron has been a Master Gardener since 2002 and a Master Composter since 2003. He has been gardening and composting for well over 40 years and had extensive gardens at his home. He specialized in planting many varieties of Hosta's and Daffodils and often shared his excess bounty with our chapter members. He was active in the VT State Fair project in Rutland for many years. He designed the Compost and Soil Improvement building that that we use today and with assistance from Emmett Perry, the two men built the building to his specifications. He also created a beautiful Hosta garden next to the education booth at the fairgrounds that was a focal point for many years.

He loved to teach anyone who was interested in composting. He was especially passionate about the hot compost method and would work through the summer at the fairgrounds to create several bins of beautiful compost that we used on the demonstration gardens. His motto was "It's all about the soil".

Ron was active in many chapter projects over the years most notably the VT State Fair project, dig and pots for our annual plant sale and helping out on the day of the sale. He was always willing to lend a hand when needed. He was an active member of the Rutland Steering team and attended many of the monthly meetings. His knowledge about composting was invaluable to Master Gardeners', Master Composters, interns and community members over the years.

Our chapter presented Ron with a Life Time Achievement Award in 2018 along with Emmett Perry. He "retired" from active participation in our program in 2018.

*Respectfully submitted by Jan Sherman, EMG Rutland Chapter Chair*

Ron took the Master Gardener Course in 2002, and the Master Composter Course in 2003. He has contributed over 2,792 volunteer hours and received his Lifetime Achievement Certificate and Gold Badge in 2009. I have had the pleasure of visiting with Ron at the Composter building at the fairgrounds in past years, and always enjoyed spending time with him. Ron also taught for the Composter Course for several years sharing his passion and expertise for composting with hundreds of students.

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Chouinard, EMG Program Assistant*