



## Spotlight on Peg Ebben



I have been gardening as long as I can remember. My parents would put in a huge vegetable garden every year. As kids, we got paid 5 cents a row to weed. Vegetable gardening has always been a part of my life. I grew very few flowers until I moved from a small town “up north” to Greenville in 2000. My husband and I bought five acres with two barns and a house that was built in 1872 with several neglected old peony beds that I slowly started to work on (after planting the vegetable garden of course).

After taking the MG basic class in 2006, I expanded my gardening knowledge and ability. I planted grapes, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, and hops. After taking a fruit tree grafting class, I started an orchard that now contains mature apple, pear, plum, and one cherry tree. I also added several more flower beds and numerous shrubs and trees.

My vegetable garden evolved over the years from a traditional row garden about 100x50 feet to a much smaller foot print that includes more trellising and five mounds, including a new culture bed added last spring. I have benefited from putting into practice all the knowledge I have gained in the Master Gardener Volunteer program.

I tried a few odd plants that have not been very successful. I have grown wild rice, oats, and quinoa, which grew well, but separating the grain from the chaff was next to impossible.

I don't need any motivation to get out and work in the yard or garden. I love to be outside and the excitement of checking the garden every day in the spring for the newly planted seeds to come up never gets old. Being able to enjoy easily accessible fresh produce is great too. I also do a lot of canning. Spaghetti sauce, pickles, jams, jellies, fruit juices, and sauces from my garden line the shelves in my basement.

One of my favorite Master Gardener volunteer projects has been working on the Homeless Connections garden walk. Getting to view all the different styles of gardens with a great group of volunteers was always fun and seeing the work we did directly impact the community in a positive way was very rewarding.

I also enjoyed being on the education committee and being a facilitator for the basic class since 2007. And I have enjoyed designing and working on the Learning Garden for many years as well as currently serving as Member at Large.

I worked as a nurse for the Veterans Administration for 33 years, and was very fortunate to be deployed for medical hurricane relief to hurricanes Katrina and Ike. Those were the most rewarding experiences of my life.

After I retired about five years ago, a good friend asked me to take a welding class with her. Since taking the first class, I have taken 2-3 welding class each year and have made many garden structures and garden art projects. It's a really fun way to enhance your landscaping and get creative.

My greatest achievement is raising two great daughters, who, by the way, both love to garden. We have a 5-year-old and a 2-year-old grandson we watch 1-2 days a week who also love to help in the garden. My husband does not savor the outdoors much, but does lend a hand by mowing our very large yard.

My husband and I both like to travel. We usually go somewhere warm for a week or two in the winter. We like to take long, scenic road trips and we have been lucky to visit Hawaii multiple times. I would love to travel to Europe, Asia, New Zealand, well just about everywhere if money was not an object.

In my free time in the summer, I do a bit of biking, (about 800 miles most years). I love taking canoe trips with my eldest daughter and camping with my youngest and her family. We like to relax by heading to our place "up north". I like to downhill and cross-country ski in the winter and enjoy reading.