

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Much appreciation is expressed to Dr. Diane Relf, my committee chair and employment supervisor. In my few years of working with her, I have learned more than can ever be gained from book and lectures. I am very thankful for the honor of studying with her. I am also very grateful to Alan McDaniel for all of his assistance with the survey data and to Michelle James-Deramo for her volunteer management perspectives.

Many thank yous are also sent to the wonderful people who have served as local Master Gardener coordinators through my tenure as the State Master Gardener Coordinator. Their support enabled this study to reach completion. They patiently endured while I put to practice the techniques I learned in school and they faithfully completed each and every survey I sent to them, even when I erred and said I would not need to send more!

I am also very appreciative of all the family and friends who have supported me through this long journey to finish this degree. They have encouraged me to continue even when I was determined to quit. Special thanks go to my youngest sister, Beth Thompson, for patiently plugging data into spreadsheets. Without her help and Diane Relf's generosity in hiring her in the Office of Environmental Horticulture, I might be at this project another 10 years!

Last of all, I thank my husband, Darrell, for allowing me the freedom to pursue a dream and to realize it completely.