

The Joy of Roy



Photo by Harris King



Photo of Roy Lewis, Provided by Dave Allison



Photo by Felice Chadwick

CCG video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrLdVW-j-vw&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2QocK2ENRTVFF4JsOb4G-DKf7PpFBvfIG5sCOX3X3nJJ7s3eZt64qaw5o>



Roy's "mature" MGs leaning on garden stakes smiling happily after a long morning in the community garden 2020

Photo by Chris Alberti

I was honored and blessed to call Roy my teacher, mentor, co-conspirator, but most importantly, my friend. I know I will always feel his presence at the community garden and whenever I garden . . . Roy will be there with me. -Jyl Burgener

I will always remember Roy for his good humor, leadership and determination to accomplish things. Roy, my brother, I will miss your positive nature and smiling face! -Chris Alberti

I met Roy when I took the Gardening A to Z workshop at the Community Center in 2012. The experience as well as my friendship with Roy changed my life. His love of people and his enthusiasm for giving back to the community were so inspiring. I'll always think of my wonderful friend when working in my vegetable garden or flower beds or the community garden, and when I put some love on my kitten, Roy, his namesake. -Felice Chadwick

New to NC & a horticulturist, I found Roy to be interesting, smart, intuitive and down to earth. I took his class and stayed all year, became a MG and we became friends. Roy was full of love, life and gardening experiences. He enjoyed people and ran a community garden to share knowledge, encouragement & comradery while growing food for area ministries. When I take my dog walking, I'll not see Roy's white truck at the garden & he'll be missed. -Don Houser

Every time a plant grows as it should, I think of Roy; and every time a plant doesn't grow as it should, I try to remember the remedy he suggested (I'm not as good at that part), but as I ask for his advice for the umpteenth time, he always raises his eyebrows, his smiling eyes looking into the good in my heart and he'd just answer kindly as though I'd never asked before. Warmly -Barb Barakat

In addition to his vast knowledge, I will very much miss Roy's smile, his genuineness, sincerity, and love. I will miss this gentle giant of kindness and selflessness. He was a very warm and caring person. His love for his fellow master gardeners was particularly radiant as the sun. While he was among us, he gave us all of himself, his warmth, and glow. Now that his days on earth are over and his feet no longer trod upon the land he loved, may your name in golden be written in the autograph of God. Goodbye, dear friend. -David Lockett

Roy comes bouncing into any room or garden asking "What plants do you need for your school garden? I will have them for you ASAP." A Master Gardener for sure, always positive, supportive, informative, always the Leader of a Garden group. Roy's connections could get you anything you needed for a garden and always with a smile as he gave directions or suggestions for any project. Generous to a fault with anything he had and a genuine love for friends and gardening. We have a huge hole in our hearts. Love you Roy -Ester Garner

We are saddened and will miss Roy. He didn't keep his vast knowledge of gardening to himself but freely shared it with everyone. His management skills were impressive and

allowed him to set forth quick solutions to problems facing our organization which he loved. -Judy Thrasher

He was a passionate man with much to share on all topics. I think he would enjoy our fellowship and discussion of how to keep the ball rolling. From my experience with him, he loved a challenge and teaching opportunities. His physical loss is both of those. His spirit lives on I believe. -Jen Kehrner

Thanks so much to Roy and Shawn for getting me back into the Master Gardener program after a 15 year absence! Easy when they saw a fanatical guy who wanted to learn and work and help them in the community garden. Roy's enthusiasm gave us the itch! About all I can do now is propagate plants and I'll think of him as I do my gardening work! I think I will still be texting him my questions! No doubt he will be up there with his flip phone ready to answer and I hope they have gardens he can work in. -Tommy Bagley

Every time I clip my greens, be it kale, spinach, mustard greens, Swiss chard, lettuce, etc., I think of Roy with a smile. I volunteer at the Clayton Community Garden and often would get there early on Monday. I'd weed for awhile and then, with shears attack the greens. I like them young and tender. Roy would rush up and say " Don't cut them too short or too early! We still have to keep the garden pretty so all that visit can see our healthy and amazing garden!!" -Pat Rackovan

As Retiree's and MG's we choose to be around his contagious personality that included a passion for Gardening which usually lead to getting things done! After his recent Town of Clayton Presentation, he mentioned that Rufus E. had told him to never let an opportunity go by to talk about what you are truly passionate about. Gardening was it for him and we who knew him are better for it. -Diana Duncan

Roy loved what he did and he considered the Master Gardeners a part of his extended family. His passion for the EMGV program, educating people, moral and work ethic was unsurpassed. He improved the lives of many people. He was like my right-hand-man and I depended on him to take the lead in many areas of the Master Gardener Program. He was always willing and able. I learned a lot from my relationship with Roy and considered him a good friend. I am thankful for the time I knew him and he will be greatly missed. - Marshall Warren, Johnston County Horticulture Extension Agent

As past president of NCEMGVA, I had the great opportunity to work with Roy. During part of my four years as president he was my vice-president and a long-time delegate to our

board from Johnston County. When he walked into a room everyone knew it. He had a way of lighting it up. But his heart was always in Johnston County and the many wonderful projects in which he and all the great volunteers of Johnston County participated. Rest in peace. - Edna Gaston

Roy & I were in MG class together in 2014. I was impressed with his input as it always was like a part of him. He was a walking, talking gardening manual and I went to him many times for advice with the school gardens as well as my own. I am going to miss him dearly. - Sandra Preston