#1 WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

TITLE
Dynamic Volunteer Engagement and Impactful Educational Outreach Taking Us into the Next 50 Years of the Extension Master Gardener Program

PROFESSIONAL INTEREST GROUP/COMMITTEE SPONSOR
Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardener Professional Interest Group

DISCIPLINE AND COMMODITY
Extension, Other

RELEVANCE/IMPACT OF TOPIC
According to the Extension Master Gardener National Summary, “The Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program (EMGV) estimated at least 84,700 EMG volunteers throughout the United States and Washington, D.C, contributed 3.1 million hours educating others, and helped people use gardening to grow food, improve their physical and mental health, and address environmental issues. Conservatively, these efforts are estimated to contribute 88 million dollars in value to the public. Due to the COVID-19, pandemic state programs implemented reduced requirements and increased flexibility for volunteers. Most states suspended or reduced volunteer hour requirements, moved educational programming delivery through virtual platforms, and altered or suspended many volunteer projects”.

OVERVIEW OF THE GOAL OF THE WORKSHOP
The goal of this interactive workshop is to bring consumer horticulturists and extension master gardeners and coordinators together to discuss their successful programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. This workshop will highlight how four EMG coordinators continued successful programming with virtual platforms and technology to deliver their uniquely focused programming. The focus will be on the innovative and new extension outreach going on across the country that goes beyond the plant sale and includes topics such as A) programs that engage youth B) local food systems and community gardening C) diversity, equity, inclusivity and access and D) digital opportunities for educating. Other possible discussions are extension master gardener work with public gardens and the important role they play in conservation and sustainability. We invite workshop participants to share their perspectives, and to recruit participants to continue working on these issues after the conference.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED FORMAT (120 minutes total)
After a brief introduction of the workshop goals and format, the four panelists will be introduced.
Each panelist will have 12-15 minutes to introduce their topic, review the available literature or data, and propose tentative solutions or future directions. This section of the workshop will take approximately 60 minutes.

Workshop participants will be asked to split into four issue-based discussion groups. One of the panelists will lead each group. For 30 minutes, the group will focus on further exploring the issues, providing feedback on the content of the presentation, and actively discussing solutions or further steps.

For the remaining 30 minutes, the four groups will come back and report on the substance of their groups' discussions. Further discussion as a large group will occur and next steps will be proposed. Detailed notes will be taken and the conversation summarized.

The workshop organization will send the workshop notes to the members of the Consumer Horticulture/Master Gardener PIG through the ASHS PIG website.
WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

Doing more with less: Reducing fumigant use with alternative production systems

RELEVANCE/IMPACT OF TOPIC
With the phaseout of methyl bromide in 2005, large-scale growers are still searching for effective pest and disease management alternatives for their production systems, while reducing their overall inputs. Moreover, growers of all scales are shifting to more sustainable options. This workshop will address the critical need for more economical and effective management options for soilborne pests and diseases in vegetable cropping systems.

OVERVIEW OF THE GOAL OF THE WORKSHOP
The goal of the workshop is to bring together research and extension professionals working to help growers identify viable alternatives to manage their soilborne pest and disease issues. The workshop will highlight three alternatives, and allow participants to become more familiar with their implementation and ask questions around different aspects of their use (environmental impact, economics, etc.). By bringing together the PLASTICULTURE and CHEX PIGs, we have the unique opportunity for researchers and extension professionals to discuss potential barriers and bridges to on-farm adoption and brainstorm creative ways to overcome these barriers.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED FORMAT
• Each panelist will have 15 minutes to introduce his/her topic and research, with next steps and implementation strategies for growers at various scales. (45 minutes)
• Presentations will be followed by a panel and participant roundtable discussion, where participants can divide up by topic of most interest to discuss barriers and bridges to adoption of alternatives. The workshop organizer will solicit feedback from the PLAST/CHEX PIGs prior to the conference, as well as have a discussion board in the workshop room for participants to jot down questions for the speakers. (25 minutes)
All participants will reconvene to summarize barriers and bridges of adoption/implementation as a group. (20 minutes)