May 5, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

The Kansas Extension of Master Gardeners has had the good fortune to work with select students of Kansas State University in the past year. The premise of the project was to create a product that would allow Master Gardeners to enter information into a central database regarding a variety of activities and to create an electronic garden journal. In addition, the product would ultimately allow the general public to create and display reports via the Internet.

The power of the program would ultimately allow any Master Gardener Organization or gardening enthusiast to electronically document over 3500 species of plants and trees in over 300 gardens across the county. This is significant progress, considering the recording and reporting was performed manually before and was not easily or frequently used by organization members.

The keys to the success of the project were the talented students that we had the opportunity to work with on many occasions. Their level of professionalism, expertise, and hard work resulted in a product that will be in place by May, 2006 and is one that may be enhanced by gardeners in the future. Their attention to detail, documentation, and process afforded us the opportunity to immediately utilize the end deliverable.

One of the many notable students we worked with was Matthew Carlson. We were impressed - not only because he has good technical skills - but also because he was able to successfully convert a set of business rules to a working concept. Matthew showed a great, consistent ambition to do things "right" and placed a lot of importance on the end-user experience. He wanted it to be easy to use and for the users to have no issues with the system. The product reflects his high standards. We appreciated working with Matthew and are confident he will be successful in his career of choice.

The Master Gardeners of Johnson County are extremely pleased with this project and we are particularly impressed with Matthew and his classmates.

Sincerely,

Cory Cochran
K-State Research and Extension
Johnson County
11811 S. Sunset Drive, Suite 1500
Olathe, KS 66061-7057
913-715-7000
Fax: 913-715-7005
http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/johnson