



Submitted photo

The Master Gardeners in the photo include Barker Carter, Paco Candal, Holly Votaw and Maryellen Farley.

# Rotary club gives grant to local Master Gardeners

**CINDY DECKER**  
FOR THE T. TIMES

Transylvania County Extension Master Gardener Lynn Bartosh is a member of Rotary International and volunteers on its grant committee where she has seen first-hand how grants are awarded to organizations that meet one or more of the Rotary's seven areas of focus.

The work the local Master Gardeners do right in Transylvania County meets no less than three of these seven areas – environment, community economic development, and basic education and literacy.

With this understanding, Lynn encouraged the Master Gardeners to apply for a 2024 grant.

The Rotary Club of Pisgah Forest awarded the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners \$500 which is being used in our primary area of focus of educating the public on the native and non-native plants of western North Carolina.

The Master Gardeners want to make it easier for our community to learn more about the plants that we have in our demonstration gardens throughout the county.

This generous grant has allowed us to purchase

25 special markers that contain the name of the plant (both common and scientific) along with a scannable QR Code that provides extensive additional information about each specific plant.

The signs are large, easy to read, can withstand the weather and help us in our goal of community education.

These markers were installed this spring in the woodland garden in the gardens of Silvermont.

Our objective is to have a total of 50 to 75 of these markers installed in various demonstration gardens over the next two to five years using money raised through fundraising via our annual spring plant sale, donations and potential future grants.

In addition to the woodland, pollinator and vegetable gardens at the gardens of Silvermont, the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners maintain demonstration gardens at the Allison-Deavor house, the Pisgah Forest Ranger Station and the Transylvania County Library rain gardens.

All of these gardens are open to the public and we love to have visitors.

Rotary is a service-oriented, 100% volunteer-based organization with the motto of "service above self" to provide services to local

communities. Rotary Club of Pisgah Forest is one of 46,000-plus Rotary Clubs worldwide.

There are currently 71 members locally and meetings are held Wednesday mornings at 8 a.m. at the Mary C. Jenkins Community and Cultural Center in Brevard.

Visitors are always welcome.

You can find articles with information about coming meetings and speakers in The Transylvania Times. The Assault on the Carolinas is the annual fundraiser for Rotary Club of Pisgah Forest.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Pisgah Forest, go to [pisgahforestrotary.org](http://pisgahforestrotary.org).

Thank you to the Pisgah Forest Rotary from the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners for the generous grant and for helping us get started with our newest tool to help our community learn more about the plants in our gardens.

For more information about the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners, call the Extension Office at (828) 884-3109 or go to [transylvania.ces.ncsu.edu](http://transylvania.ces.ncsu.edu).

Cindy Decker is a Transylvania County Extension Master Gardener.