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A full copy of this report is available on the WI MG Program website at
http://wimastergardener.org/wisconsin-mg-annual-report/
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UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

Make a Difference

The value of MGV service in WI

$4.5 MILLION
in 2017

using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $22.48 per hour, from Independent Sector.

196,290 hours

carried out by MGVs to UW-Extension and their communities this year.

2,474 ✓

Master Gardener Volunteers are certified for 2018.

578

The goal of the Master Gardener (MG) Program is to train enthusiastic volunteers to assist UW-Extension educators. Historically, Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) served as the front-line to the public by answering home garden related questions. MG projects now expand into the community, providing a myriad of services related to gardening and the environment (see Community Impacts 2017 on pages 8-17).

Some of the many educational projects and activities MGVs conduct throughout Wisconsin include:

- Assisting UW-Extension with consumer horticulture questions
- Providing valued education on numerous topics
- Battling invasive species and protecting native plants
- Creating and supporting community gardens
- Educating about composting
- Restoring historic gardens
- Therapeutic horticulture projects
- Teaching the public about growing food
- Enhancing public spaces
- Teaching children about plants, gardening and the environment
- Working with the elderly or physically limited adults
- Improving water quality and promoting water conservation.
- Beautifying our communities to enhance potential economic development

Master Gardener Volunteers bring a wealth of resources with them, including experience, time, and creativity. The value of this is difficult to capture, but we are making an attempt to calculate the value of their contributions using estimated dollar values of volunteer time in Wisconsin over the years from Independent Sector, a nationally recognized source of information on volunteerism. UW-Extension is leveraging this contribution of MGVs to further UW-Extension’s mission to extend information into communities statewide.

The value of MGV service in WI

$56.8 MILLION
2000-2017

using the estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin for each year, from Independent Sector.

“Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”
Executive Summary

The Master Gardener (MG) Program is an all-volunteer organization sanctioned by the Land Grant institutions in each state and functions as an extension of the college or university. In Wisconsin, the program is sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Extension. The MG program originated in Washington State in 1972, and began in Wisconsin in the late 1970’s. Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) are trained volunteers who aid University of Wisconsin-Extension staff by helping people in the community better understand horticulture and their environment. Local training and volunteer development is hosted by the county UW-Extension office, with support and administration provided by the State MG Program Office.

The Master Gardener Program Office

The MG Program Office, housed in the Department of Horticulture on the campus of UW-Madison, is the centralized location for administration of the MG program. The MG Program Director, MG Program Coordinator, and MG Program Assistant work closely together to plan, organize and implement various services for county UW-Extension educators and individual MGVs in Wisconsin:

• Support UW-Extension county staff and volunteers in training and volunteer development.
• Create educational materials and host programs relating to horticulture and volunteer development.
• Evaluate and report impacts of UW-Extension county staff and volunteers as related to the Master Gardener Program.
• Partner with organizations to introduce UW-Extension and/or MG Program to new audiences.
• Facilitate communication through monthly e-newsletters to UW-Extension county staff, volunteers, and administration, and website management.
• Participate with national initiatives and committees relating to MG Programs.

Examples of specific activities of the MG Program Office in 2017:

• Continued coaching to county staff and volunteers delivering training, volunteer development, and community projects.
• Produced, facilitated and provided support for Level 2 training on Composting and Soils.
• Began preparing for Level 3 continuing education.
• Attended National Extension Conference on Volunteerism in Asheville, North Carolina (on planning committee, too) and International Master Gardener Conference (Portland, Oregon)
• Participated on national EMG committee, chair of Impact and Evaluation workgroup and leading pilot on Food Security and MGVs.
• Participated in and facilitated Achieving the Extension Mission Through Volunteers volunteer management online course, including presenting in conjunction with Iowa State University on efforts on MGVs and Food Security.
• Hosted the first statewide MG Coordinator Meeting at Upham Woods.
• Hosted a monthly online Coordinator Discussion.
• Solicited bids for a Volunteer Management System (VMS) to support data collection.

The UW-Extension Master Gardener Program YouTube Channel
(all Level 1 and Level 2 training)

2016 . . . . . 3,625 hours watch time . . . . . 1.8 FTE
2017 . . . . . 6,225 hours watch time . . . . . 2.9 FTE
- Initiated work on a MG facilitator guide.
- Began to clarify risk/liability and safety policies.
- Collected images and video footage emphasizing geographical and population diversity; involved collaboration with various county educators.
- Worked with UW-Extension Department of Human Resources to facilitate completion of new centralized criminal background check procedures for all volunteers.
- Converted assistant LTE position to coordinator FTE.
- Produced monthly County Coordinator’s Update and Volunteer Vibe e-newsletters.
- Posted 35 educational articles on the MG website (a new title every 10 days), including 4 new Plants Plus series using repackaged content from previous Level 2 trainings.
- Delivered presentations for Garden Expo (2 - filmed by Wisconsin Public TV for University Place), Gardening for Gold symposium (Dodge County MGA), Kenosha County MGA meeting, Green County MGA meeting, Let’s Get Green and Growing symposium (Columbia County - 2), others.
- Presented seminars for the 4-H Youth Conference, PEOPLE Program (MGVs involved).
- Participated in 7 horticultural therapy workshops primarily for MGVs but also for medical professionals.
- Participated in 2 plant propagation workshops (UW-Madison and Marathon County).
- Participated in face-to-face and online trainings for MGVs (Milwaukee, Waukesha, Trempealeau Portage Counties) and general public (Rotary Botanic Garden, Douglas County).
- Coordinated volunteers and staffed booth at Garden Expo and UW Family Gardening Day.
- Produced 3 program orientation videos, 2 program promotional videos, 1 educational video in partnership with Allen Centennial Garden, various short videos related to program announcements.
- Partnered with FoodWIse to distribute minigrants to educators and MGVs in WI.
- Participated in Wisconsin MG Association board meetings and twice yearly Wisconsin MG Advisory Board meetings.
- Presented at statewide WIMGA conference.
- Coordinated Horticulture Therapy program at VA hospital.
- Organized three sessions of Responding to Horticulture Inquiries for UW-Extension staff and MGVs.
- Participated in 7 Civil Rights Review Days in various county offices.

The 2017 Level 2 Training, Compost and Soils for MGVs, focused on advanced composting information, soil health, evaluating controversial horticultural topics, Wisconsin soil history, the relationship of humans with soil, and teaching techniques for volunteers. The course heavily utilized the former Master Composter Training. Two hundred and ninety two certified MGVs registered for the fully online, asynchronous, statewide course. The program built on the historical course style of pre-recorded lectures by including a la carte activities designed to enhance the online learning experience. A Google+ Community allowed students to interact with other MGVs enrolled in the course statewide. Two hundred MGVs (68% of course registrants) signed up to participate in the Community to complete activities, share resources, and to ask and answer questions. Ninety MGVs earned the course completion certificate.

“I felt challenged by the other students to think critically about the lectures and to make meaningful contributions to the online conversation.”

“Some of the modules forced me to research information that took me outside of my comfort zone, and I am grateful for that -i.e. The Web Soil Survey site was challenging for me at first, but once I figured it out, I have really enjoyed sharing the information with others.”

“Having the knowledge base is so helpful in these situations.”
Master Gardener Volunteers Make a Difference

Community Impacts - 2017

Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) in the state’s 72 counties provide a tremendous resource in solving local issues and providing valued education. Their work impacts a wide diversity of people and communities across the state. The following are just some examples of the many ways MGVs throughout Wisconsin are working with people in their communities. Read more stories about the success of MGVs in specific counties in the individual county reports on pages 22-79.

Growing Gardeners

The Master Gardener (MG) Program was originally created to develop a volunteer staff to assist Extension agents in answering gardening questions. Over the decades, educational efforts have expanded beyond answering the phone in the county extension office—although this is still a component of many local MG programs, with nearly 60% of reporting counties staffing a Garden Help Line of some sort (phone, online). MGVs are the face of UW-Extension Horticulture in many counties, offering numerous educational opportunities for the public to help others make appropriate decisions to manage pests and problems in home landscapes, make informed choices when purchasing plants and garden related materials, and make judicious and environmentally appropriate decisions for pest management.

Providing Valued Education Through Workshops, Seminars, Symposia, and Conferences

Nearly 90% of reporting counties offer workshops, annual seminars, or lecture series speakers on a variety of topics. Many local MG Associations (MGA) include an educational session open to the public at their monthly meetings or give talks through other organizations. The statewide Wisconsin Master Gardener Association hosts an annual conference open to the public. Many groups write educational newspaper or web articles and connect with gardeners by many other indirect means to engage them in gardening and to connect with UW-Extension resources.

- **Lawn Chair Learning** was a new series in Racine and Kenosha Counties offering garden programs to a public audience. Six sessions were offered at different MG project locations (3 in each county) showcasing different topics related to the different projects.
- MGVs taught an eight workshop series at the Shawano City-County Library focused on educating new gardeners on the basics of garden preparation, seed/plant selection, and garden maintenance.
- Sawyer Co. MGVs gave presentations throughout the year to area residents at local libraries, garden clubs, and senior centers on topics including ornamental edibles, perennial gardens, helpful insects and pollinators, and herbs.
- In Calumet Co., MGVs offer monthly educational classes for the general public at the community garden covering general gardening topics, planning a garden, maintaining tools and how and why to control weeds and other plants.

### Some Annual Seminars

- **Barron**: Spring Expo
- **Clark**: Spring Conference
- **Columbia**: Let’s Get Green and Growing
- **Dodge**: Gardening for Gold
- **Dunn**: Spring Begins!
- **Florence**: North Stars Garden Conf.
- **Fond du Lac**: A Day in the Garden
- **Green**: Spring Seminar
- **La Crosse**: Spring Into Gardening
- **Marathon**: Garden Visions
- **Marinette**: Northern Light Spring Conf.
- **Sauk**: Get Ready, Get Set, Garden
- **Pierce/St. Croix**: Garden U
Assisting UW-Extension with Consumer Horticulture Questions

MGVs staff booths at county or area fairs, farmers’ markets, and other community events to answer horticulture questions from the general public. They often answer questions during local garden walks, plant sales and many other activities. Many MGVs MGVs trained as Plant Health Advisors (PHAs) answer questions in the local county UW-Extension office in person or remotely.

- Crawford Co. MGVs staff a Ask a Master Gardener table monthly at the Prairie du Chien library to answer gardening questions.
- Washington Co. MGVs answer questions at a farmers market and from their County Fair booth, as well as on their Plant Health Hot Line.
- MGVs in Douglas Co. provided information and answered questions at the United Health Care’s sponsored local food harvest fest in Superior on how to grow and use fresh local food to help achieve health goals.

Getting Everyone into the Garden

MGVs work to engage new faces and those who may need extra help in getting into the garden or learning about plants. Many of these new audiences have been constrained by physical, emotional, developmental, economic, or other factors that can limit access to programs.

- Rock Co. MGVs offered monthly one hour classes at two senior centers providing hands-on activities such as planting summer vegetables in the raised beds in the courtyards at each facility which engaged the hands and minds of individuals who often felt lost and alone.
- In Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, MGVs in the Lifelong Gardening project give presentations on how to garden as we age, bringing tools for adaptive gardening. The group won a national award for this project in the Special Needs Category at the International MG Conference.
- Lincoln Co. MGVs offered weekly gardening activities with Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, which included assisting the residents in planting a raised bed and reminiscing about their gardens.
- MGVs in Marinette Co. partnered with Wausau Enterprise, a community based rehabilitation facility for individuals with disabilities, to help clients explore the outdoor world.
- The Green Works project in Racine and Kenosha Counties allowed intellectually challenged adults and veterans from local care facilities to join in greenhouse activities directed by MGVs.
- MGVs in Sauk Co. worked with the Ho-Chunk Nation in building raised garden beds for tribal members and taught raised bed gardening.
- In Dodge Co. MGVs provided quarterly hands-on programs for SPARK! program (designed to engage individuals with early to mid-stage memory loss and their care-givers).
- MGVs in Walworth Co. helped establish a community garden in a low-income community, engaging nearly 80 students to grow vegetables.

Horticulture Therapy Summit

Iron Co. MGVs and UW-Extension hosted a three day Horticulture Therapy Summit, bringing caregivers from around northern WI and the U.P. of Michigan together to work on strategies to incorporate hort therapy principles into their programs. Hort therapists and garden design specialists gave presentations on therapeutic garden design, adaptive tools and gardening with veterans, children and those with cognitive conditions. Participants planned projects they could implement in their own practices.
Inspiring the Next Generation of Gardeners

One of the most common ways MGVs directly engage others in gardening is through youth programs that teach children about growing plants. Over 80% of counties reporting have some sort of youth education projects. Many MGVs participate in school programs to teach students about growing and using plants. In addition to formal school programs, many MGVs work with students in their school gardens to guide the children in preparation, planting and maintenance activities, or assist staff in school gardens that grow produce for donation or local consumption. MGVs participate in many other non-school-based youth garden programs that let the children get their hands dirty.

MGVs’ work with kids isn’t just about gardening. Math, reading, science and problem solving skills are practiced while gardening, as are social skills, working cooperatively, listening and communicating, practicing following instruction and critical thinking. In some cases entrepreneurship is included.

• MGVs in Florence Co. have two seed starting tables for kids each spring, one at a local library, the other at a craft and garden fair in another community.
• At the Adams Co. Kids Day MGVs gave away 450 flower bulbs as a way to introduce the youth to gardening, providing instructions on how to plant and care for these bulbs.
• Brown Co. MGVs taught gardening to home-schooled youth at Heritage Hill State Park and connected with nearly 750 children at the YMCA’s Healthy Kids Day in May, teaching about plants they could grow at home and helped the children plant lettuce seeds in a paper cup to take home.
• Waupaca Co. MGV work with youth in 4-H and FFA throughout the year on growing, preserving and exhibiting vegetables, fruits, flowers and houseplants.

Growing Micro Greens

The micro-farm project in Columbia Co. engaged about 156 youth in grades K-4 in learning about plants by growing edible greens in their classroom for six weeks, then sampling their work. MGVs provide other activities such as journaling, growth charts, and making comparisons for the teachers to use after the planting day. When MGVs return for harvest day and the students sample the greens, it is surprising how often we hear children say “I’ve never eaten salad before.” The students learn they can grow plants, try new foods, and ask to have more salad!

• In Chippewa Co. MGVs coordinated a summer reading program connected to the Bloomer Community Garden. Youth read books about plants and gardens and then walked a short distance to the community garden to discuss and observe what they have learned.
• Oneida Co. MGVs helped students at Crescent Elementary School in Rhinelander plant six raised garden beds with vegetables and several herbs. Some of the children were overheard telling their friends at lunch when the first peppers were served as part of the meal that they helped plant them!
• At the annual Prairie Fling held at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary in Sarona, Washburn Co. MGVs greeted families and visitors, provided information and a hands-on family activity: making newspaper pots, planting bean seeds, and quizzing/reviewing what plants need to grow.
• In Price Co. MGVs take the Garden Giants program to elementary schools so kids get to learn how to grow plants. Students learn to identify seeds and take home seed tapes made in class as well as plants that were started by the MGVs to grow over the summer. In October, the largest sunflower head, pumpkin and carrot are determined by weight and measurements done in the classroom.
• Burnett Co. MGVs assisted in the Webster Elementary School vegetable garden working with a teacher on a farm to table concept and with gardeners with a range of experience.
• MGVs in Milwaukee Co. offered a six week program to teach preschool to teenaged children from the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center about gardening. The kids planted ten different vegetables in 2 three foot high raised beds, watered, weeded and then harvested the crop for the elders of their community. The children learned about seed germination, composting, soil testing, pollinators and what types of food grow in Wisconsin.

• In Wood Co., MGVs had programs at two Children’s Festivals, making up 1,000 kits for each event that were taken home so kids could start their own plants. Mini programs during the day entertained and educated the youth about gardening.

• MGVs conducted programs on growing vegetables for over 1,100 children in grades K-6 at three Fond du Lac Co. schools, with a focus on the value of pollinators and colorful vegetables.

• Marathon Co. MGVs conducted six sessions over the summer month with YMCA and Key to Life Day Care (age 4-9). Lessons included: what is dirt, seed starting, planting a garden, fruit vs. veggies, plant parts and how to make a kale smoothie.

• Dodge County MGVs held weekly Youth Master Gardener classes for 27 K-9 students. During the growing season, they met outdoors and provided hands-on activities for students in community gardens, pollinator gardens, and other community activities. During the school year they met in a classroom setting for more training in an after-school environment.

• MGVs worked with the Door County Boys and Girls Club to provide gardening education and experiences for their summer program participants. Youth learned about growing plants and participated in planting raised beds at the Boys & Girls Club grounds. Along with a nutrition educator, they also learned how to use produce grown in their gardens and took produce home.

• Over 120 children at Hayward Primary School participated during the spring as 2nd graders and the fall as 3rd graders, learning in class as part of their curriculum about plants, soils and compost. They applied their learning in the school garden with the assistance of Sawyer Co. MGVs, earning Blooming Gardeners Badges by participating, taking care of the garden for a week during the summer with their parents and completing a learning summary.

• During educational family night at local elementary schools, Dunn Co. MGVs worked with youth who planted seeds in pudding cups to take home with them and guessed the variety of flowers and corn in a jar. MGVs also assisted the Menomonie High School Agriscience teacher with a variety of projects in the classroom, including apple grafting.
Contributing to Food Security

Hunger and food insecurity are real problems for many Wisconsin families. Statewide, over 724,000 people live in households that do not have access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. This is a particular problem among the 12.1% of Wisconsin citizens that live in poverty and even for those whose incomes are considered above the poverty line. It is estimated that 12.5% of households in Wisconsin are food insecure, 13.3% have participated in FoodShare, Wisconsin’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and 57% of public school students in K–12 were eligible for free or reduced price meals (from Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty, www.irp.wisc.edu, FoodShare Wisconsin, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/, and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-statistics).

MGVs work in their local communities to address food insecurity through gardening, to help families gain knowledge and skills to grow some of their own food, and make direct donations to food pantries and other organizations. Donated vegetables or the ability to grow their own food helps maintain the health of lower income families, seniors, and others experiencing difficult economic or personal situations.

Produce Donations

In most counties there is an existing system of food pantries and excess food distribution systems that MGVs have linked to. MGVs have donated amazing amounts of fresh produce locally. Some of this donated food has been produced through Plant a Row for the Hungry (PAR) or similar programs.

• In Brown Co., the MGV project at St Mark Lutheran Church supplies foods for that church’s community pantry and the project at St Philip Catholic Church supplies foods for St Bernard Church’s pantry. The two projects provided approximately 600 pounds of fresh and nutritious produce for the two food pantries.

• MGVs in Marquette Co. sponsor a Plant-a-row program, hold a fruit tree sale, and have a youth garden project at the Westfield library which grew over 200 pounds of produce donated to the community. The tree sale increases access to fruit with 140 families purchasing fruit trees.

• Polk Co. MGVs planted and maintained garden beds at the Amery Community Gardens to provide approximately 121 pounds of tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, carrots and green beans for the Amery Food Pantry from the three beds they rented.

72,120+
pounds of produce

contributed by MGVs to food pantries and other organizations this year.

in over 200
Community Gardens

maintained or worked in by MGVs throughout the state of Wisconsin.
Community Gardens

All across the state community gardens encourage individuals to become more self-sufficient by producing some of their own food, and numerous MGVs are involved with creating, developing and maintaining community gardens. Many of these community gardens are used by lower income families with no access to garden space in their homes. In many of these community gardens, MGVs not only grow produce, but also assist others to become gardeners by providing materials, information, and support. And of course, most of these gardens are multi-purpose, combining education with production for donation. In the past few years, as Community Gardens have become more popular, more and more MGVs have used these venues to engage people of all ages in gardening through various programs in these gardens across the state.

- MGVs partnered with the Barron Co. FoodWise Program and other community volunteers to help grow vegetables for the needy at the Barron Community Garden. MGVs answered questions, helped construct raised garden beds, and managed “community plots” that raised over 500 pounds of food that was donated to the Barron County Senior Nutrition Program.
- Clark Co. MGVs helped maintain the Neillsville Community Garden, offering advice and suggestions. They grew potatoes for donation to the local food pantry in any unused space.
- In Dane Co., MGVs serve on the board of the Wisconsin Heights Community Garden. It had to relocate this year, going from an alfalfa field to a thriving garden that was able to donate over 600 pounds of produce for the Black Earth and Mazomanie food pantries.
- Jefferson Co. MGVs help gardeners at the Rock River Community Garden learn new garden skills and build a healthier community. The Jefferson Food Pantry is the recipient of extra vegetables grown. A waste food composting site was started for the food pantry within the garden.
- The UWEX Demonstration and Learning Garden in River Falls, maintained by Pierce and St. Croix Co. MGVs serves as an educational tool, but also as a community garden where the produce is donated to local food pantries, senior sites, and low-income housing units.

Teaching About Growing Food

Growing and donating produce only fulfills an immediate need, and does not offer a long-term solution to the problem of hunger, food insecurity and adequate nutrition. The MG Program emphasizes community education as an important component of its volunteer mission, and many groups have education programs in this area.

- Calumet Co. MGVs taught monthly classes at their community garden on raising vegetables in raised beds, working and maintaining your gardens and preserving produce properly.
- Douglas Co. MGVs joined with the Superior Housing Authority to offer container gardening workshops for residents with limited space with containers for salsa, herbs, and vegetables.
- In Sheboygan Co, a local children’s museum Eat, Play and Grow weekly sessions gave children and adults the chance to experience gardening. MGVs planted and maintained four raised beds and a garden plot, and worked directly with children of all ages to grow and harvest the vegetables.
- Vilas Co. MGVs work with the Farm to School (F2S) program in the Northland Pines School, teaching in the gardens and helping with school nutrition events and tastings. The F2S program serves 1200 students at 8 different schools on 4 different sites.
- Winnebago Co. MGVs helped FoodWise teach 3 classes on growing food at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, providing each family with their own vegetable and herb container garden.
- MGVs in Green Co. partnered with a school FFA to create Garden Guide Kits that included seeds and literature for distribution at a local food pantry to encourage participants to learn to garden. Over 2,000 pounds of fresh produce was donated to local school kitchens and food pantries.
Greening Communities

Nature is an important part of places that are livable and enhances the quality of life in cities and towns. Studies have shown that gardens, parks, natural areas, and trees can boost learning, increase personal productivity, lead to social interactions, and aid in recovery from stress and anxiety, as well as improve air quality and provide economic benefits (see http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/).

MG volunteer activity has expanded into directly engaging in the community through partnerships with schools, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations. While many of these projects and partnerships provide educational opportunities to participants, we now recognize these projects also have a larger impact contributing to the sense of place to the community, increasing the value of property by helping convert brown space to green, improving the social vibrancy of a neighborhood, and attracting tourists and dollars to communities.

Enhancing Public Spaces

MGVs maintain landscaping in on-going beautification projects in communities throughout the state. Fifty four of 56 counties reporting maintain flower garden(s) at a library, fairground, municipal building or other public spaces. These projects not only enhance the visual aesthetics and add value to the landscapes of a community, but are a chance to educate the public. These plantings, designed for public viewing, emphasize proper plant care and cultivar selection, offer examples of plants with the best characteristics for that environment and are an opportunity to provide accurate information on specific plants or techniques. Frequently these projects include planting and maintenance of gardens at fairground, county offices or other government buildings. MGVs also assist local organizations or institutions in planning or implementing their landscaping projects.

• MGVs in Ashland Co. helped restore eight neglected parking lot gardens, removing weeds and planting bulbs, perennials and ornamental grasses to improve the aesthetics of these areas.
• Bayfield Co. MGVs organized the art show Inspired by Nature at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center featuring work that focuses on the artistic side of horticulture.
• Crawford Co. MGVs worked with the Prairie du Chien Main Street Group to create flower pots on Blackhawk Ave. designed for color and ease of care, and watered and maintained them to help make the main street in the town warm and inviting for everyone.
• MGVs planted and maintained the Dunn Co. Veterans Memorial octagonal garden located in downtown Menomonie, using red, white and blue flowering annuals.
• Juneau Co. MGVs assisted the Juneau Co. Historical Society with gardens surrounding Stewart’s Chapel located south of Mauston, WI, enhancing the appearance of this historical building built in 1874 that is host to weddings and community summer gatherings.
• MGVs in Kewaunee Co. helped to make the 2017 Farm Technology Days grounds more welcoming to attendees with over 400 planters placed around the Tent City grounds, in front of all the food tents and pavilions, and with beautiful tableaus at each of the four entrance gates.

New Life for an Old Garden

MGVs in Outagamie Co. rennovated the landscape at Hearthstone Historical House, a nationally recognized 1880's Queen Anne style home in Appleton. Old photos, period guides, and a 15-year old design inspired a plan that includes a curved walk, lush borders, a terrace overlooking the Fox River, and a secret garden. Through work days and tours, visitors of all ages get a sense of what plants were popular at the time and can learn how to create their own period-inspired garden.
• Lincoln County MGVs have landscaped the roundabout in Merrill that was once overgrown with weeds, planning, planting, and maintaining the area to make it more welcoming to visitors.
• MGVs in Marathon Co. planted 865 native wildflowers at Rib Mountain State Park where over 300,000 annual visitors can view these and hundreds more in the two mature gardens.
• MGVs in Ozaukee Co. totally revamped the most labor-intensive garden at Advocates of Ozaukee—a very steep and long hillside filled with aggressive plants and some invasive species—to be a low maintenance space by digging out the old plants and installing nearly 600 native plants in drifts.
• The Ellison Bay Flower Project in Northern Door Co. included MGVs planning, fertilizing and watering 40 barrels and seven large planters throughout Ellison Bay from May through October, as well as planting and maintaining the historical Klenke's Truck featured in magazines and calendars.

Botanical Gardens and Research Stations

Botanical gardens are a significant tourist attraction, offering more than just flowers. Many gardens host interactive exhibits, art installations or special events that encourage repeat visits and have an important local economic impact. For example, over 92,000 people visited the Green Bay Botanical Garden (GBBG) in 2014. A 2010 study by the Wisconsin Arts Board found the average Wisconsin non-profit arts and culture event attendee spent $19.06 per person. An economic impact study indicated that with the addition of indirect and induced effects, the GBBG generates 83 jobs and $5.9 million locally in Northeast Wisconsin. Volunteers are instrumental in helping these Gardens achieve their goals and MGVs are especially important to these organizations. The University of Wisconsin Agricultural Research Stations are facilities for University of Wisconsin College of Agricultural and Life Sciences staff to conduct research, education, and outreach activities. MGVs are an important support partner at many of these locations. MGVs in 19 counties volunteer at the local botanical garden/arboretum or UW Agricultural Research Station.
• Working at the Platteville Arboretum, Grant Co. MGVs introduced others to the importance of pollinators along the 3½ mile paved trail which is used by runners, walkers and bikers.
• The Spooner Agriculture Research Station Teaching and Display Garden is designed and maintained with the help of MGVs from Washburn, Sawyer and Burnett Counties. During the growing season the garden hosts many training events and has visitors from schools, garden clubs, and residents of the area.
• The Garden Door, Door Co. MGV’s public demonstration garden on the grounds of the UW Peninsular Agricultural Research Station, is a major tourist attraction with 6000 visitors each summer. Visitors can learn more about the more than 350 varieties of plants with cultural information posted on their website accessed by QR codes posted throughout the garden.
• Brown Co. MGVs maintain the Small Space Gardening exhibit at the Green Bay Botanical Garden. to demonstrate how to use a variety of containers for growing vegetables or flowers.
• Waushara Co. MGVs help maintain 5 acres of annuals, perennials, shrubs, vegetables and fruits at the Hancock Agricultural Research Station. Produce is donated to a local food pantry.
Protecting the Environment

Although some people think MGVs only work with flowers or landscaping, they are also involved in many projects related to a variety of environmental issues. MGVs educate the public about preserving the natural beauty that is such an asset to our state and are active in raising awareness of exotic invasive plants and insects which disrupt native habitats and threaten indigenous inhabitants.

**Invasive species** impact the environment and economy throughout the state, and MGVs respond to these with both education and action. Thirty eight of 55 counties reporting have projects to educate the public about invasive species, while 27 of 55 have projects to physically remove invasive species; 22 counties have both education and physical removal projects.

Buckthorn, garlic mustard, and purple loosestrife are the most common invasive plant species targeted by MGVs, with honeysuckles and wild parsnip also addressed. Other plant species with programs in only one county include Amur cork tree, Eurasian milfoil, phragmites or common reed, spotted knapweed, teasel, water hyacinth, and wild chervil. The main insect problems that MGVs are focused on are emerald ash borer and Japanese beetle as those pests spread across the state. Jumping worms are a recent introduction that is starting to get more attention in the state.

- Marathon Co. maintains a state-reporting site for lily leaf beetle—which is currently only in a small area of central Wisconsin—and MGVs are involved in raising awareness to prevent its spread.
- The Omāqnomenēwak MGVs have started conversations about the presence of invasive plants on the College of Menominee Nation campus which could have negative impacts on the Menominee forest and are developing a plan to replace existing landscaping with native plants and flowers.
- MGVs in Pierce Co. partnered with a township to map locations of wild parsnip, so the municipality spot sprayed only a fraction of the 41 miles of ditches they originally were going to treat.
- Sawyer Co. MGVs participate in eradication of purple loosestrife from the public islands on the Chippewa Flowage.

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Many MGVs are also involved with **habitat protection or restoration projects**, educating the public about native plants and animals, working to maintain native plantings, or restoring damaged areas.

- MGVs began restoration of a three acre prairie in cooperation with Dane Co. Parks Department, removing invasive plants and transplanting prairie plants.
- Florence Co. MGVs maintain a native garden in front of the Natural Resource Center in Florence where UW-Extension is located to educate about the local flora.
- Marinette Co. MGVs created an exhibit of wetlands and how they work to clean our waters at Harmony Arboretum to educate on the need to preserve wetlands and waterways.
Pollinator Protection

More than three-quarters of the world’s food crops rely on pollination by insects and other animals. But many of these species are now under threat from disease, pesticides and habitat loss. Globally there are more than 20,000 species of wild bees alone, plus many species of butterflies, flies, moths, wasps, beetles, birds, bats and other animals that contribute to pollination. Native pollinators are at risk of disappearing from our landscapes. Lack of consistent food sources throughout the year, parasite challenges, and sensitivity to certain pesticides all contribute to the decline of the current pollinator population. In Wisconsin, pollinator-dependent crops account for over $55 million in annual production. MGVs are involved in improving public understanding of the role of these beneficial animals and helping expand the quality and quantity of habitat for pollinators and minimizing risks. Forty of the 55 reporting counties have MGV projects related to pollinator protection.

- In Rhinelander, Oneida Co. MGVs created a pollinator garden to welcome visitors to the Courthouse. A plant list was available to the public for creating their own pollinator garden.
- Students at Webster Elementary School learned from Burnett Co. MGVs how to harvest the milkweed pods in the butterfly garden (installed by MGVs in front of the school) to plant later.
- Chippewa Co. MGVs enhanced the Pollinator Garden and Butterfly Way-Station at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds—viewed by an estimated 250,000 visitors annually—and had an educational booth with kids activities complete with monarch larvae, adults, and other caterpillars.
- Sauk Co. MGVs installed houses for carpenter bees and bumble bees and maintained three honey bee hives throughout the year.
- When the Portage Co. MGVs presented Garden Dreams, a one-day educational workshop open to the public, they included talks on beekeeping and plants for pollinator gardens and had a special display on pollinators at the Plover Public Library garden developed in conjunction with the UWSP Schmeekle Reserve Visitor Center.
- An Iron Co. MGV gave several pollinator presentations at schools, farmers markets and garden clubs over the summer to increase pollinator awareness. With an observation honeybee hive as a focal point, the presentations highlighted pollinator garden design, habitat conservation, and strategies to minimize pollinator loss.
- Rock Co. MGVs designed and printed a tri-fold pamphlet on their Pollinator Project to educate the public on the importance of pollinators and taught an introductory class called Pollinators 101.
- Dodge Co. MGVs educated youth and adults about the wide variety of pollinators and their benefit to the environment during the 5 day county fair and established a 200 ft² pollinator garden in Horicon planted with a variety of perennials that bloom all season.
- In Walworth Co. MGVs taught a pollinator lesson in 16 classes and educated 332 youth (in partnership with 4-H youth development and horticulture). The lesson included a highly interactive pollination activity and exploring how bees collect pollen and nectar.

This information represents 3,191 records submitted by 66 counties. All hours are listed as whole numbers. Any fractions were rounded up to the nearest whole number. The Certified MGVs column represent those MGVs who completed the minimum volunteer and continuing education hours and other requirements for certification or recertification for 2018. The totals by county are also depicted on page 20.

Statistical Information for the Wisconsin MG Program, 2017 (as of December 15, 2017)

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Total Volunteer Hours for Counties participating in the Wisconsin MG Program, 2017
(as of December 15, 2017)
The **Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA)** is an independent, statewide organization whose mission is to support and provide leadership to individual MGVs and local organizations in their mission to assist UW-Extension in community horticultural programs through volunteerism, education and environmental stewardship. The WIMGA supports 53 local MG associations and individual MGVs. WIMGA's Board of Directors is made up of 15 MGVs, with two Directors from each of six districts plus three Members-At-Large.

Several members of the WIMGA Board sit on the WI MG Advisory Committee with UW-Extension Horticulture Specialists and Agents to recommend policy for the MG program.

Some of the major accomplishments of WIMGA for 2017 include:

- Hosted the annual WIMGA Conference in West Bend, with approximately 200 MGVs attending.
- Awarded a total of $5,350 in 19 Education Grants to local MG associations (three $100 grants, nine $250 grants and seven $400 grants).
- Contributed $1,500 to the WI Junior Horticulture Association to help defray the costs of WI youth attending the National Conference and $750 to the National Jr. Hort. Association for program expenses and Contest Sponsorship.
- Donated $3,000 to the UW-Extension Master Gardener Foundation Fund.
- Provided $5,000 to Wisconsin Public Radio to sponsor Larry Meiller’s Garden Talk program.

WIMGA is engaged in four strategic initiatives: to be the collective voice of MGVs, to foster statewide networking, to increase our partnership with UW-Extension, and to remain fiscally accountable to our members. Activities to carry out these initiatives included creating a slideshow about WIMGA (found on the website www.wimga.org), redesigning the WIMGA newsletter to include more articles about MG projects around state, revision of the Board manual, and creating a mentoring job description for local associations. Projects in progress include creating a speakers’ bureau for the website, and a searchable database for project ideas. Activities planned for next year include developing a statewide awards and recognition program and a leadership skills conference for local association officers, as well as a mentoring program for board members and local representatives.

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**County Narrative Reports**

On the following pages are reports for 58 of the 66 counties that submitted hours. These reports include statistical information, including the value of MGV service; three success stories; and a list of places where MGVs are active in the county. These are intended to provide a brief snapshot of some of the most significant activities of MGVs in their county, and relay more about local activities than what is included in the executive summary and discussion of community impacts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties providing hours only</th>
<th>Counties without an active MG Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trempealeau</td>
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</table>
The Master Gardener Program in Adams County started in 1997. Over 172 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 11 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Agriculture Educator facilitating the MG Program is Alana Voss.

**Fallen Officer Memorial Refurbished**

The landscaping around the Officer Shannon Memorial at the Adams County Sheriff’s office for fallen officer Michael Shannon was overhauled by the MGV training class as a group project. Using information from their classes they decided as a group on the plants to be used, landscape design, and did the maintenance of the memorial.

**Introducing Children to Gardening**

Every year businesses, groups, and individuals come together in the community to hold educational events geared towards kids. At this year’s Kids Day MGVs gave away 450 flower bulbs as a way to introduce the youth of Adams County to gardening and the opportunity to meet local MGVs in their community. The MGVs provided instructions to the kids on how to plant and care for these bulbs, so they should be able to have them for several years.

**Promoting the Master Gardener Program**

This year MGVs held an open house to encourage individuals to learn about the Master Gardener program at the Adams County Community Center. A short garden tour was given around the community center to highlight a few of the gardens on site. The Aging and Disability Resource Center spoke about their raised gardens that the seniors care for during the year. We discussed how MGVs plant and care for flower pots at the entrance of the center and the flag pole. The UW-Extension office showcased their pallet garden used as an educational display.
The Master Gardener Program in Ashland County started in 1992. Over 150 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 8 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Matt Cogger.

**Creating a Highly Visible Gardens in Tourist Areas**

Although MGVs maintain a number of gardens in the city of Ashland, a major project was a 300 foot long terrace garden in the right of way at west end of town on US 2. The owner of the Ashland Motel above the garden donated $500 to the Council to purchase perennials as well as donating some liatris, bleeding hearts, mums and day lilies. The local newspaper published a front page photo of MGVs along with the motel owner to publicize the project which received many compliments from local citizens.

**Memorial Garden Dedicated**

The gardens surrounding City Hall and the parking lot gardens across the street from City Hall were dedicated in August in honor of Jane Smith, a former City Clerk and interim City Administrator and originator of the Beautification Council. Over $1200 was raised to purchase perennials, shrubs and roses for the gardens, which were planted and tended by the Beautification Council.

**Walking/Bike Trail Will Showcase Native Plants**

MGVs added native trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses along a barren 600 foot long stretch of a popular public walking and bike trail near the Public Works department and water treatment plant. A $100 Audubon Society grant was used to purchase native Viburnums, while $200 donated by the Ashland/Bayfield County MG Association allowed for the purchase of additional shrubs. Native snowberry and asters have also been donated. This area will provide an opportunity for public education about native species where people are likely to stop and read information about these plants.
The Master Gardener Program in Barron County started in 1994. Over 205 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 31 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Ag/Hort/Natural Resources Agent Tim Jergenson.

**MGVs are Active Plant Doctors**
Ten MGVs took turns serving as “Plant Doctors” at the Rice Lake Farmers Market over the course of the 2017 season, providing evidence-based horticulture information to nearly 70 visitors. They answered questions on pest management, cultural methods of growing flowers, house plants, fruit and vegetables. They also encouraged visitors to test their garden soil by distributing dozens of soil test kits.

**Growing Food for Those in Need**
Five MGVs partnered with the Barron Co. FoodWise Program and other community volunteers to help grow vegetables for the needy at the Barron Community Garden during the 2017 growing season. MGVs answered questions, helped construct raised garden beds, and managed “community plots” that raised over 500 pounds of food that was donated to the Barron County Senior Nutrition Program. Over 1000 of the participants in the Senior Nutrition Program are considered “food-insecure.”

**The Heart of a Master Gardener Volunteer**
On May 16, 2017 a Category 3 tornado devastated parts of Barron Co., injuring dozens of people and killing one, and destroying or badly damaging hundreds of homes, including one of a MGV. Despite her devastating loss this MGV showed up four days later to help with our plant sale. She even donated some plants from her garden which were dubbed “Tornado Survivors” and were sold with other donated plants to raise funds for scholarships and other activities of the MG program. This reflects the kind, caring heart of many volunteers in the program who generously teach others about horticulture and can be an inspiration to us all.
The Master Gardener Program in Bayfield County started in 1996. Over 150 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 10 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Matt Cogger.

**Gardens Enhance Namakagon**

In the town of Namakagon two MGVs have planted and maintained four gardens. The planting started with the volunteers purchasing annuals, perennials and bulbs for the gardens. It also includes starting seeds in their home and caring for canna bulbs for the last 25 years. During the growing season the volunteers checked water needs and maintaining the water system, weeding, deadheading of annuals, pest control (voles, deer and insects) and general maintenance required for northern WI gardens.

**Helping Maintain a Historic Place**

Forest Lodge is an 870 acre estate on the south shore of Lake Namakagon in Bayfield County that was gifted to the American people to preserve and enjoy. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. MGVs have been actively involved in a cooperative and continuous effort with the U.S. Forest Service, HistoriCorps, “Friends” of Forest Lodge, and Northland College of Ashland to maintain this scenic spot.

**Showcasing the Artistic Side of Horticulture**

*Inspired by Nature* is an art show organized by MGVs that features work that focuses on the artistic side of horticulture. This art show which includes a variety of different artistic mediums opened November 9th at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and will remain in place until June of 2018. The Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center receives a large amount of traffic throughout the year and this art show is an excellent method of providing visibility to the Master Gardener Program.
The Master Gardener Program in Brown County started in 1979. Over 355 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 74 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Vijai Pandian.

**A Special Habitat for Pollinators and the Community**

MGVs have been planting and maintaining native flower gardens along the Riverwalk for the City of De Pere. This year the project received certification as a Monarch Waystation Habitat by Monarch Watch. This project not only provides support to native pollinators but provides education to the public on a wide variety of native plants while beautifying a recreational area. In July, 44 MGVs attended a tour of the garden hosted by the project volunteers.

**Growing Nutritious Foods for Others**

The St. Mark’s Garden Project in De Pere is an organically grown garden providing fresh foods for the church’s community food pantry. This included 23 different vegetables and 8 varieties of herbs. In addition to providing 271 pounds of produce for the pantry, MGVs use the garden to educate pantry patrons and provide information about the planting and harvesting of each type of vegetable. MGVs grew vegetables at the Brown County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) in downtown Green Bay to provide fresh produce for the ADRC meals program.

**Teaching Children About Gardening**

MGVs engage children at the YMCA garden in Howard to get them involved in garden upkeep, pest and weed control, and harvesting produce. The staff of the YMCA uses all the produce to develop healthy snacks and meals during summer activities. MGVs are available during the summers to help guide the children in their gardening, and later in the year one MGV taught a one hour class per week on a variety of garden/plant topics to the children in the YMCA’s After School Program for 5 weeks.
The Master Gardener Program in Burnett County started in 1999. Over 52 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 11 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Kevin Schoessow.

School Garden Teaches Children
A butterfly garden installed last year by MGVs in front of the Webster Elementary School has yielded a number of butterflies this year. The 4th grade garden buddies will harvest the milkweed pods this fall and instruct other interested students on how and when to plant. In addition to the Butterfly Garden, MGVs have also volunteered in their school vegetable garden working with the teacher on a farm to table concept. The attendees ranged from novices to experienced gardeners and together shared successes and failures on how to raise healthy plants. Once the mysteries of germination were broken into simple steps everyone was ready to start gardening.

Fort Folle Avoine Historic Park Gardens
MGVs manage some of the gardens at Fort Folle Avoine Historical Park in Danbury. The raised “heritage garden” beds are examples of kitchen gardens, pollinator gardens with native plants, cutting gardens, perennial gardens and a Three Sisters garden. The Three Sisters included the gete okosomin squash from Native Americans, corn and beans. Home-schooled children helped prepare the garden soil and plant seeds. This was not only a volunteer activity for them but also a learning experience.

Helping Others Grow Plants
A seed starting program was provided by a MGV at the Webster Library to give a good start to the 2017 growing season. The program provided information on appropriate seed starting methods, the best seed varieties for success, and timing for northern gardens.
The Master Gardener Program in Calumet County started in 1991. Over 96 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 23 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. There is currently no UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program.

**Enhancing the Hospital Community Garden**

MGVs partnered with the Chilton High School Horticulture Class to update the paths to improve access and add new growing space at the Community Garden at Calumet Hospital in Chilton in the spring. MGVs instructed a group of 14 students in spreading bark mulch between the raised beds and in the installation of twelve additional raised beds that were then filled with soil. In the fall, students from the Construction Class at Chilton High School constructed a new 8’ X 12’ storage shed at the Garden. Students worked each day during their class period, completing the project in about 1 month. The shed will be used to store gardening equipment and two rain barrels were added behind the shed for gardeners to use. Plans for spring are to have the art class from Chilton High School to paint a mural on the side of the shed and to have the landscape class do landscaping around the shed.

**Memorial Planting Honors Local Woman**

A new raised bed was constructed at the Fairgrounds in Chilton in front of the Youth Building to replace the deteriorating and overgrown bed that MGVs had built there over 20 years ago. This new bed was planted in memory of a local lady who passed away from cancer. A total of 16 new donated shrubs were planted and maintained in the bed by MGVs.

**Teaching Others to Grow Food**

In conjunction with the Community Garden, MGVs taught monthly classes on raising vegetables in raised beds, working and maintaining your gardens and preserving produce properly at the end of the growing season to help others become more successful gardeners.

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**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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Value* $43,768

Since 2000: 43,057 hours at a value of over $762,623

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

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**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Calumet Co.**

- Chilton Riverwalk
- Chilton Public Library
- Courthouse Memory Garden
- Calumet Hospital Community Garden
- Chilton Welcome City Bed
- Calumet County Fairgrounds
- Calumet County Courthouse
The Master Gardener Program in Chippewa County started in 1999. Over 210 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 22 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Jerry Clark.

**Educating the Public About Pollinators**

MGVs continued to educate the public on the importance of pollinators by enhancing the Pollinator Garden and Butterfly Way-Station at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds, installing a monarch butterfly garden at Lake Wissota State Park, and participating in Chippewa County School Conservation Days, where MGVs reached over 700 students with their educational station on the importance of pollinators in the environment and protecting their habitat. The fair educational booth included monarch larvae, adults, and other caterpillars and MGVs helped little fairgoers make bumblebee and butterfly visors. The Pollinator Garden showed the public how attractive and active a native planting can be and is viewed by an estimated 250,000 visitors annually.

**Trail Showcases Native Trees**

The Irvine Park Native Tree Trail in Chippewa Falls is an effort to provide information about Wisconsin’s native trees. Over the years MGVs have planted and maintained 52 native trees, each identified with a stone marker which includes information about that species, in association with the Chippewa Falls Parks and Recreation Department. Many of the thousands of visitors to Irvine Park enjoy the information trail.

**MGVs Help Bluebird Restoration**

MGVs maintained bluebird habitat and houses on the Old Abe Bike Trail as part of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin. Out of 25 boxes on the Old Abe Trail, 12 were used by bluebirds. Throughout the trail, 41 fledged bluebirds, 32 tree swallows, and 13 house wrens were added to Chippewa County’s population.
The Master Gardener Program in Clark Co. started in 1997. Over 118 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 11 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Crops/Soils Agent Richard Halopka.

**Garden Conference Educates the Public**

In April MGVs sponsored a free Spring Garden Conference with a guest speaker presenting on Earth Garden Boxes and area UW-Extension agents presenting on Apple Tree Diseases and Apple Tree Grafting. The video presentations, hand-outs, and demonstrations were well received by the 35 attendees. Lots of questions and comments from the audience made for a lively discussion.

**Garden Tour Facilitates Sharing**

In July Clark Co. MGVs sponsored a Garden Tour around the Neillsville area. We invited the Eau Claire County MGVs and toured 8 different garden areas, including a tour of the High Ground (a beautiful park and grounds commemorating soldiers from all the wars) and seven private gardens. Besides seeing the beautiful gardens, there was a lot of information and camaraderie exchanged between the two MGV organizations.

**MGVs Enhance Area Public Gardens**

This spring MGVs completely renovated the garden bed outside of the entry to the Neillsville Library. MGVs dug out and saved all salvageable perennials, removed six inches of the old soil and added new purchased composted soil. Some of the perennials were replaced and new annuals including Supertunia Vista® Bubblegum® petunias and marigolds were added to brighten the area. Now patrons of the library can enjoy their walk in and out. In addition to this big project, we continued to maintain gardens at the Clark County Humane Society, Courthouse and Fairgrounds to increase the visual appeal of those areas.
The Master Gardener Program in Columbia County started in 1999. Over 220 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 29 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent George Koepp.

**Sharing Our Knowledge**

MGVs taught public classes on specific topics such as pruning trees, container gardens, growing and using gourds, beginning gardening, and preserving garden produce at a variety of locations. Others teach in one-to-one settings at Arbor Day events, farmers’ markets, garden shows, and booths at the Columbia and Lodi Fairs, with about 620 adult teaching contacts this year. A few MGVs educate by writing articles for newspapers and newsletters.

**Fighting Food Insecurity by Growing Food**

MGVs have participated in a community-wide effort to address hunger and food insecurity by using the garden at the Portage Public Library to teach low-income families in the area how to grow food in small spaces. This is one of the sites for the summer food program, which targets neighborhoods with 50% or more school-age children eligible for free/reduced price meals. Families helped plant the square foot beds in May, and then one day a week for 10 weeks, children attending the meal program had a lesson related to growing, harvesting or eating plants.

**Working With Youth in Service**

Pauquette Park is the setting for weddings, band concerts and family reunions at the west entrance to the city of Portage. It takes a lot of work to maintain this garden space, so MGVs, as well as Kiwanis club members, have recruited help from the Portage High School Honor Society, Junior Kiwanians, and students required to perform community service. Students have not only helped beautify this public space, but learned to identify plants; how to dig, prune, and plant; and to be part of a team effort.
The Master Gardener Program in Crawford County started in 2000. Over 90 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 22 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UWEX staff member facilitating the MG Program is Karen Snitker.

**Youth Program Wins State Award**

*Kids in the Garden,* a new hands-on garden program started by MGV Donna Teynor, was awarded the 2017 Silver Award for the best youth program in Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association. Prairie du Chien’s Parks and Recreation department donated an area of their Memorial Garden on St. Feriole Island for this project. Each of the six sessions covered a different topic, with an activity, short lecture, and book reading related to the theme, plus tastings where appropriate, in addition to the normal garden maintenance activities. An average of 15-20 kids came to each session with 27 children at one of the afternoon sessions.

**Garden Registered as Monarch Waystation**

Maintenance of a flower garden established several years ago by MGVs at the Crawford County Fairgrounds was taken over by MGVs Marla Hurley and Caprice Ellefson this year and expanded to become the Birds and the Bees Pollinator Garden. They also registered it as a Monarch Waystation by providing the necessary resources for these native butterflies such as milkweed plants for breeding and nectar-producing flowers to sustain their migration.

**Taking A Sensory Garden on the Road**

Working in five teams of four, MGVs created a Mobile Sensory Garden to educate and engage the community. Each team focused on one of the five senses, and planted two pots each with plants that represented the sense that they were assigned. The mobile “garden” was first displayed at the county fair and then moved to the Crawford County Administration Building for everyone to enjoy.

**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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<th>Hours</th>
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**Value** $66,759

Since 2000: 27,684 hours at a value of over $526,323

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.
The Master Gardener Program in Dane County started in 1981. Over 1,790 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 185 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Lisa Johnson.

**Prairie Restoration in Local Park**

MGVs began restoration of a three acre prairie near the Lussier Family Heritage Center, a part of Capital Springs Recreation Area, in cooperation with Dane County Parks Department. Over 100 volunteer hours were dedicated to removing invasive plants and transplanting prairie plants. The parks department spread native seed on the area this fall.

**Symposium Focuses on Urban Gardening**

The Madison Area MG Association (MAMGA) held an Urban Gardening symposium with 60 members in attendance. Various facets of urban gardening were highlighted including the history of urban gardening, vegetables, ornamentals, involving youth, chickens and city zoning. MGVs brainstormed on how they could support urban gardening in Madison, developing a list that will serve as a source for potential future projects for MAMGA.

**School Gardens Enhanced for Better Learning**

MAMGA provided $1500 in grants to support local projects. Nuestro Mundo, a Spanish-immersion elementary school in Madison, used their portion to purchase tools for the students to plant and maintain their garden areas which are used as outdoor classrooms. They have prairie plants, a weather station, benches built by parents, and a Green Roof atop the Little Free Library. Students are starting a composting program and have just incorporated containers of vegetables. At Lowell Elementary Schools, over 50 volunteers built 12 raised beds, with a raised bed for each grade and additional higher beds for special needs children. Each classroom spent 30 minutes each week working in their raised bed planting seeds, seedlings and harvesting crops.
The Master Gardener Program in Dodge County started in 2004. Over 178 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 27 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Crops & Soils Area Agent Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing.

Dodge County Fair Booth Educates on Pollinators

MGVs educated youth and adults about the wide variety of pollinators and their benefit to the environment. During the 5 day fair, hundreds of people stepped up to spin our “Wheel of Knowledge” and answer a question to win a prize. Ample hints made sure that each person won a prize. Participants went away with a greater appreciation for pollinators and a need to provide habitat for them.

New Educational Pollinator Garden Established

MGVs established a third educational garden in the county, a pollinator garden. Located adjacent to the Bethesda Thrift Store in Horicon, the 200-square foot garden is planted with a variety of perennials that bloom all season. The Dodge-Jefferson Bee Keeper Society provided the funds to purchase stakes identifying each plant. A beautiful 18” x 24” full color sign is ready to be installed indicating the garden is designed and maintained by Dodge Co MGVs. Residents will also be able to access a website with plant descriptions and growing conditions.

Presentations Teach Many

MGVs gave over 25 educational presentations in 2017 to senior citizens, school children of all ages, civic groups, women’s groups, library programs, community programs, expos, and community gardens. We taught about composting, container gardening, monarch butterflies, wildlife management, plant propagation, hummingbirds, vegetable gardening, square foot and straw bale gardening, succulents, birdhouse gourds, spring garden preparation, flower and pollinator gardening, and more.
The Master Gardener Program in Door County started in 1995. Over 285 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 85 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Annie Deutsch.

**Tuesday in The Garden Door**

Each month, June through September, on the second Tuesday, we provided educational programming for the public in The Garden Door. Each evening included three 20 minute presentations made by Door Co. MGVs and staff from UW-Extension, the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station and the USDA Potato Genebank. On average, 25 people attended each evening. Participants were able to experience areas of the Garden that related to the topic of the presentations.

**Educational Series For the Public**

Each winter and spring, we offer free gardening-related programs presented by speakers recruited from Door County as well as across the state. On average, 70 individuals attend these programs. This series has become widely known and popular in the Door County community.

**The Garden Door Showcases Area Plants**

Annually, in July, we present an Open House in The Garden Door, our public demonstration garden. This year 130 participants interacted with and learned about the services offered by UW-Extension, Door County Public Health and the USDA Potato Genebank in addition to enjoying the Garden at its height and have their gardening questions answered by MGVs stationed around the Garden. MGVs also provided educational presentations on a variety of topics. Later in July the Garden was included on the Door County Medical Center Auxiliary’s annual House & Garden Walk. Over 600 participants visited, with MGVs present in the Garden to answer gardening questions.

**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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Since 2000: 107,747 hours at a value of over $2,059,693

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Door Co.**

- The Garden Door
- UW Peninsular Ag Research Station
- Crossroads at Big Creek
- Ridges Sanctuary
- Heritage Village
- Village of Ellison Bay
- Boys and Girls Club
- Noble House
The Master Gardener Program in Douglas started in 1998. Over 286 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 14 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Jane Anklam.

My Hips Thank You!

MGVs conducted a raised bed garden demonstration at a community garden in downtown Superior, encouraging gardening for all and to enhance access in small spaces. The style of raised bed accommodates both wheel chair and bench access for those with limited mobility or flexibility. The materials for the project were donated by local businesses. One participant explained that she was considering giving up on gardening as it was becoming a physical challenge. “I attended the demonstration to find a tangible way to keep gardening in my life for years to come.” Those who attended this demonstration were given an herb plant to take home and enjoy for their own accessible gardening experience.

We Can Feed Each Other

MGVs refreshed garden beds at the Solid Rock Supplemental Food Garden and planting a variety of vegetables, fruits, 8 apple trees and 4 cherry trees. All of the produce from the gardens is given to the Solid Rock Safe Haven soup kitchen or Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency.

Learning About a Unique Ecosystem

Pine barrens are somewhere between a forest and prairie ecosystem, with some of the most biologically diverse and unique habitats found in the state, but less than 1% of the original barrens remain in Wisconsin. MGVs gathered with Friends of the Bird Sanctuary for a presentation and a stroll through the native plant garden and along the local barrens trail with DNR Wildlife Biologist Greg Kessler and Horticultural Educator Jane Anklam to learn about this unique ecosystem so they can educate others about this ecological treasure.
The Master Gardener Program in Dunn County started in 2010. Over 83 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 18 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Katie Wantoch.

**Teaching Grafting at Menomonie High School**

Each spring students in the horticulture class at Menomonie High School get a chance to learn the process of grafting. Ms. D’Angelo, Agriscience teacher and MGV, collects scions from her neighbor’s apple trees and orders dwarf rootstocks. With help from MGVs, students get to cut their scion to fit the cleft of the divided rootstock. They also add grafting wax to the exposed areas to keep from drying out. Students learn a new skill and are able to take their grafted apple tree home to plant in their yard.

**Produce from Jail Garden Donated to Food Pantry**

In 2010, the Dunn County Jail Garden was started under the management of volunteers. During the first seven years, 127 Huber inmates contributed 2,100 hours as part of their community service requirements. The garden is about 34,000 square feet, including space for apple, plum, and cherry trees, along with a variety of vegetables such as asparagus, rhubarb, tomatoes, beans, potatoes, vine crops and others. So far, the garden has provided over 15,000 pounds of produce to the Stepping Stones Food Pantry of Dunn County.

**Dunn Co. Historical Society Rain Garden Upgraded**

A professionally planted rain garden at the Dunn County Historical Society has been maintained by MGVs for the past few years. The garden contains false indigo, wild quinine, blue flag iris, three kinds of ornamental grasses, rudbeckia, obedient plant, and several kinds of native flowers. After assisting with brush removal in the spring and pulling weeds throughout the summer, MGV Martha Wallen is working with the new museum director to add educational signage and handmade stepping stones.
The Master Gardener Program in Eau Claire Co. started in 1984. Over 538 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 36 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Erin LaFaive.

**Ready, Set, Grow Inspires Gardeners**

Over 150 people had an opportunity to learn about various aspects of gardening at the *Ready, Set, Grow* MGV Garden Seminar held in Eau Claire in late January. The keynote address focused on heirloom plants, and three breakout sessions offered a choice of nine topics ranging from roses to water features and wildflowers to vegetables. This annual event not only provides horticulture information, but increases interest in gardening and expands public awareness of UW-Extension and the Master Gardener Program.

**Demonstrating Gardening Methods**

The teaching gardens, planted and maintained by MGVs at the UW-Extension office in Altoona, provides the public with examples of gardening methods such as sub-irrigated containers and mulching layering technique, as well as a convenient location for teaching and demonstrating gardening methods. Over 50 people were educated in 25 sessions or in individual tours with people looking for horticulture-related information. Many others took self-guided tours outside of business hours and when people were walking by.

**Answering Gardening Questions**

MGVs answered gardening questions at the Eau Claire County Fair in late July. With a table situated at the entrance to the Expo Center where all 4-H members display their projects, there was a constant stream of people stopping to get information on Japanese beetles (as they were more numerous than in past years), identification of invasive plants, tomato and other vegetable diseases, and powdery mildew.
The Master Gardener Program in Florence County started in 1996, and includes participants from adjacent counties in Michigan. Over 105 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 11 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension staff member facilitating the MG Program is Sabrina Leffler.

Native Garden Showcases Area Plants

MGVs maintain a native garden in front of the Natural Resource Center in Florence where UW-Extension is located. Every fall we clean up the garden and one of the chores we actually look forward to is the “Annual Cutting of the Cup Plant”. This native grows to 10 feet tall most years and has spread from a single stem to a compact clump about 3 feet across. Last year we sold divisions of this plant at both our spring and fall plant sales.

Education For Northern Gardeners

We organized a day-long garden tour at the request of a garden club from Oconto County who wanted to see some “up north” gardens. The group of 50+ toured a home built at the base of a terraced and landscaped granite bluff, a woodland property with shade, sun gardens and a fruit tree meadow, a shade garden incorporated into a glacial kettle, as well as a local garden center, lunch at a lakeside restaurant and a visit to our ongoing downtown gardens.

Supporting Students

MGVs donated $500 each to 3 area school projects: Niagara school to assist in purchasing an additional planting tower for students to grow greens they then eat; Florence Middle School to assist the Environmental Science class to attend Trees for Tomorrow; Florence Elementary School to assist with costs of the foundation for a large donated greenhouse which will be open for our use as well. Our continuing Inga Fleming Memorial Scholarship fund has now given a total of $18,500 to county residents continuing their education in related areas.
The Master Gardener Program in Fond du Lac County started in 1992. Over 419 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 53 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is the new Crops & Soils Area Agent Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing.

**Educating over the Airwaves**

MGVs participate in *Landscape Smart*, an hour-long Saturday morning Fond du Lac radio program. The show, sponsored by Rademann Stone & Landscape, answers horticulture questions called in by listeners. Responses are provided by a panel made up of Ron Rademann and two (of eight) MGVs. The program also provides opportunities to publicize other MG events and activities.

**Herb Gardens in the School**

At Riverside School, MGVs planted herbs and took some plants in to the third grade classes so 60 children could touch, smell, see and taste the herbs including rosemary, parsley, dill, cilantro, sage and basil. MGVs talked about what some of the herbs are used for. Micro greens were also planted, so the student would see their seeds growing since herbs take a while to mature.

**School Vegetable Gardens Educate Children**

MGVs conducted programs on growing vegetables at three elementary schools, reaching over 1,100 children in grades K-6. With a focus on the value of pollinators, MGVs did a class on bees, using costumes and props, and started planting vegetable seeds in March. The vegetables were planted in the garden in late May with a rainbow of color in different vegetables from blue potatoes, purple peppers, yellow tomatoes, purple kale, etc. The children placed colored sticks by the color vegetable they were planting. There was also a game on pollination so the children could learn which vegetables are pollinated by wind, bees, butterflies and those that do not need pollination.

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### Volunteer Service in 2017

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<th></th>
<th>Hours</th>
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*Value* $109,547

Since 2000: 73,935 hours at a value of over $1,391,433

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

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**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Fond du Lac Co.**

- Lamartine Veterans Memorial Garden
- Fond du Lac Community Gardens
- Fond du Lac Public Library
- FdL Lutheran Home and Health Services
- Parkside Elementary School Garden
- St. Mary’s Springs Academy
- Rosenow Elementary School Garden
- Riverside Elementary School Garden
The Master Gardener Program in Grant County started in 2002. Over 115 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 25 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program was Crops/Farm Management Agent Ted Bay.

Grant County Fair Booth Engages Children
MGVs Melody Bahr and Terry Wood designed the A-Z Kids Gardening booth with 26 potted plants, each beginning with a different letter of the alphabet, and wrote brief descriptions in child friendly terms of the plants to display by each plant. This colorful display drew many into our booth. MGVs Karin Peacock and Cindy Arndt held a kids demonstration of succulent propagation and Mason Bee House building, with over thirty kids each making their own project to take home.

Local Library Programs Educate Kids
Terry Wood presented a slide show on pollinators to over 20 children at the Livingston library in June. Each family went home with seeds to plant, a flower guide for attracting pollinators, the Wisconsin Bee Identification publication and web page information. MGVs Kerry McCabe and Peggy Thereault gave a brief presentation on how plants and flowers make our world a better place then demonstrated making Seed Bombs. Over 50 children were guided in making their own “bombs” the size of a golf balls with marigold and zinnia seeds (chosen as these germinate easily). MGVs also assisted Schneider Memorial Library in Lancaster in their demonstration of Seed Bombs with over 25 children participating.

Second Driftless Garden Conference
Over 45 people attended the conference open to the public on the UW-Platteville campus which included a keynote speaker and choice of nine topics. Our displays this year featured floral photography by MGVs Kathy Kubitz, Shirley Audetat, and Chris Swan; a traveling display of pollinators; and a blueberry growing demonstration.
The Master Gardener Program in Green County

The Master Gardener Program in Green County started in 2004. Over 135 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 33 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Mark Mayer.

Encouraging Others to Grow Produce

MGVs in collaboration with the Pecatonica FFA Chapter created over 100 Garden Guide Kits to help educate people about gardening. Several packets of vegetable seeds, the UWEX Gardening & Home Grounds Publication book, and a copy of UW-Extension’s The Vegetable Garden were placed in ziploc bags to create the gardening kit. Labels were placed on the kits, stating “Home Garden Seed! Vegetables to Grow!” The free kits were distributed at a local food pantry to encourage participants to learn to grow their own produce.

Teaching at Green County’s 4-H Exploring Day

The Green County 4-H Program hosted a free open house event for youth, grades K-6, to explore some of the projects 4-H offers. In an effort to encourage plant interest, MGVs taught approximately 75 youth how to propagate plants, prepare the soil for planting, and arrange them in new containers. Youth were able to assist with the planting and given tips on how to care for the plants. As an additional benefit, the youth were sent home with their freshly planted items.

Landscape Upgraded at Area Arts Center

The Monroe Arts Center is a National Historic Performing and Visual Arts Center located in the City of Monroe and visited annually by numerous tourists as well as county residents. After recent remodeling, the site needed landscaping improvements. Following professional recommendations, MGVs helped to amend the soil, design, plant, and maintain the new and improved garden areas in the Center’s historic yards.

Volunteer Service in 2017

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<td>2,155 hours</td>
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Since 2004: 24,773 hours at a value of over $488,056

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Green Co.

- GCMGA Plant Sale & Symposium
- New Glarus Historical Museum Prairie
- Monroe Arts Center
- New Glarus School Gardens
- Pleasant View Nursing Home Gardens
- Green County Justice Center Garden
- New Glarus Flower Clock/Village Garden
- Green County Food Pantries
The Master Gardener Program in Iron County started in 1999. Over 75 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 11 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Darrin Kimbler.

Promoting Horticulture Therapy

MGVs with Iron County Extension hosted a three day Horticulture Therapy Summit in March. The event brought caregivers from around northern WI and the U.P. of Michigan together to work on strategies to incorporate horticulture therapy principles into their programs. Horticulture therapists and garden design specialists provided presentations on therapeutic garden design, adaptive tools and gardening with veterans, children and those with cognitive conditions. The final day of the summit had participants planning projects, which they could implement into their own practices.

Increasing Pollinator Awareness

A MGV who also is a beekeeper gave several pollinator presentations at schools, farmers markets and garden clubs over the summer. With an observation hive as a focal point, the presentations highlighted pollinator garden design, habitat conservation, challenges and rewards of bee keeping in cold environments and pesticide strategies to minimize pollinator loss. Audiences ranged from kindergarten students to farmers and aspiring beekeepers.

Community Garden Created

MGVs collaborated with a design team from Michigan Tech. University to create and construct a community garden in the city of Wakefield, MI. The design of the garden garnered a first place award in a statewide design competition. The organizers of the competition were so impressed with the project that they provided a first ever grant for the implementation of the first phase of the garden. This summer MGVs and other city volunteers built the first beds on this valuable community resource.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Iron Co.

- Hurley School Garden
- Iron County Farmers Market
- Western Gateway Trail
- Iron County Fair
- Montreal Memorial Park
- Norrie Park Community Garden
- Ironwood Pocket Park
- Wakefield Community Garden
The Master Gardener Program in Jackson County started in 2000. Over 100 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 8 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Trisha Wagner.

Helping Connect People With Fresh Produce

Once again MGVs assisted with the production of the 2017 Map of Jackson County Produce Farms. This publication provides information and a map of produce farms across the county where residents can conveniently find fresh produce so they will be more likely to increase their consumption of fruits and vegetables. The map has been produced by Jackson County UW-Extension since 2010 in print form, but this year became available in an interactive version. The digital version can be accessed on a smartphone via a QR code or from the Jackson County UW-Extension website.

Growing Milkweeds for Monarch Butterflies

MGVs continued to maintain a plot of milkweed as participants in the US Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program, in order to help provide habitat for threatened monarch butterflies. MGVs collect and distribute seeds and encourage local residents to plant or conserve wild milkweed.

Enhancing Elder Care

MGVs worked with an adult day care facility that has raised bed planter boxes for residents to use. MGVs guided participants in planting and maintenance activities and provided assistance to facility staff to further the program for their clientele.

Teaching Children About Gardening

MGVs taught children in the Jackson County Boys and Girls Club in a weekly garden education program at the Spaulding Road Community Garden. An average of 10 kids in each of the 12 sessions learned about planting seeds, how plants grow, and taking care of a garden.
The Master Gardener Program in Jefferson County started in 1995. Over 249 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 31 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Lavern Georgson.

**Plant Health Advisors Answer Questions**

Twelve specially trained MGVs (Plant Health Advisors, PHAs) assist the Jefferson County UW-Extension Office with horticultural calls and clients 2 days per week from May through September. PHAs, working in pairs, answer homeowner's questions about all aspects of gardening. This year, MGVs spent over 156 hours answering 83 questions from clients who carried in, called or emailed in their questions and/or problems about plants, insects, jumping worms and a variety of horticulture and gardening questions.

**Hoard Historical Museum**

Twelve MGVs are involved in all aspects of 5 beautiful gardens at the Hoard Historical Museum, a local non-profit museum in Fort Atkinson, from planning and maintenance to education. MGVs offered 5 garden educational programs to the public with consistently high attendance and coordinated with the City Council to declare Fort Atkinson the Intersectonal Peony City of Wisconsin on June 3, 2017.

**Rock River Community Garden/Jefferson Food Pantry Adds Compost Site**

This community garden provides common ground for people with limited outdoor space to grow their own vegetables or flowers, get outdoor exercise and enhance their health, while building a strong community. All 32 plots were rented in 2017. MGVs help the gardeners learn new garden skills and build a healthier community. The Jefferson Food Pantry is the recipient of extra vegetables grown. A waste food composting site was started for the food pantry within the garden.
The Master Gardener Program in Juneau County started in 1995. Over 158 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 18 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Educator Alana Voss.

**Fostering Youth Gardening**

A local group of youth (12 girls and 1 boy) primarily interested in horses, expanded their knowledge to include gardening this summer. With the guidance of one MGV, they undertook a summer long project focused on vegetable gardening. This included learning the basics on soil health, composting and soil preparation. They continued with planning three- square foot garden plots, choosing the types of plants to be grown, maintenance of the gardens, and harvesting. The project ended with food preservation and enjoying eating what they grew.

**Juneau County Fair Booth Educates**

MGVs provide educational resources and information on the local MG program at a booth in the open class building at the Juneau County Fair. The fair theme this year was “Cowboy Boots and Hometown Roots.” Sticking with this theme our group created a display to show the history of preservation with Mason Jars. Tying in the past with current practices that MGVs use in preserving produce from their own gardens, lead to being awarded the Best of Show in the Open Class.

**Necedah Wildlife Refuge Butterfly Garden**

MGVs have a unique opportunity to work with the Necedah Wildlife Refuge located in northern Juneau County. Our efforts have focused on creating and maintaining a butterfly garden on the refuge. This area is on a main visitor hiking path for all to enjoy and experience, with over 15 different species of plants that are known to host butterflies. These plants are identified and labeled to help visitors plan their own butterfly gardens.

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**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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Since 2000: 15,349 hours at a value of over $304,713

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

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Where you can find activities by MGVs in Juneau Co.

- Stewart’s Chapel
- Adopt-A-Highway projects
- Necedah Wildlife Refuge
- Elroy Fair
- Veteran’s Park, Lyndon Station
- Mile Bluff Med. Center Healing Garden
- Boorman House
- Mauston Food Pantry
The Master Gardener Program in Kenosha County started in 1994. Over 240 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 34 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Jeanne Hilinske-Christensen.

**Wilson School Summer Youth Program**

MGVs and the horticulture educator provided gardening activities one afternoon per week for 8 to 30 children for a 5 week drop-in summer camp program at Wilson School in Kenosha. Existing raised beds were weeded, seeded, and maintained by the participants, aged 5 to 15, throughout the program. Additional activities were provided, such as creating tree rubbings, collecting and identifying insects, and creating living necklaces with bean seeds.

**Harbor Market Plant Health Advisors**

The outdoor Kenosha Harbor Market is held on Saturdays throughout the growing season. A group of MGVs who take on the role of Plant Health Advisors staff a booth there twice a month from late May through September. They answer, on average, 70-80 inquiries each Saturday, helping residents understand and deal with problems in their gardens and landscapes. Relevant UW-Extension publications on current pest problems are available as well as information on becoming a MG volunteer. Harbor Market attendance ranges from 7,000 to 8,000 people per Saturday.

**Kenosha County Fairgrounds**

Although the Kenosha County Fair only runs for 5 days in August, the fairgrounds are used for other public events, including a Sunday flea market from April through October. MGVs plant and maintain several garden areas within the boundaries of the fairgrounds. In 2017, they planned and planted a creative display in one of the main gardens using farm related and retro items as containers to fit the fair theme, “A Barn Good Time”. It was worthy of a blue ribbon!
The Master Gardener Program in Kewaunee County started in 1996. Over 90 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 12 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Educator Aerica Bjurstrom.

Hosting Farm Technology Days 2017
Kewaunee County hosted Farm Technology Days, the Midwest’s largest agricultural show with 26,000 visitors to the three-day outdoor event. Several MGVs were members of the Greenscapers Committee, including all three tri-chairs of the Committee, which helped to beautify the Tent City grounds and entrance gates. The committee made up over 400 planters that were placed around the Tent City grounds, in front of all the food tents and pavilions. They also made up beautiful tableaus for each of the four entrance gates. Their efforts really beautified the Tent City grounds to make it more welcoming to attendees. Many of the planters around the grounds were enhanced by signage with educational information provided by the MGVs.

MGVs Contribute in Their Communities
MGVs maintained multiple municipal gardens throughout the county, including flower beds in the cities of Algoma and Kewaunee and at historic Dana Farm, the former home of Ransom Moore, the founder of 4-H in Wisconsin. They also volunteered at all three community gardens, helping grow produce to donate to area food pantries and providing informal gardening education to other participants at the gardens. They had a display at Agricultural Heritage Days where children could create fairy gardens to get them interested in plants.

MGVs Learn on Trip to Garden Expo
One event that was well attended was the trip to Madison in February to attend Wisconsin Public Radio’s Garden Expo. MGVs enjoyed the beautiful weather and wonderful seminars and topics covered at the show.
The Master Gardener Program in Lafayette County started in 2002. Over 61 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 4 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UWEX staff member facilitating the MG Program is Lisa Carpenter.

Enhancing the Village of Argyle

MGVs worked with the Argyle Chamber of Commerce in the Village of Argyle maintaining a 3 tiered garden by the library and planting the large flower pots along Main Street. We planted, weeded, and trimmed annuals, perennials and put in the bulbs in the fall for spring color next year. Signs were added to the bottom tier of the library planting to make this an educational area for passers-by and visitors to the library. We have saved the canna bulbs from the flower pots in an effort to start them next spring and grow more of the plants used in the pots and the garden.

Brightening the Lafayette County Fairgrounds

MGVs built two raised gardens at the entrance of the Lafayette County Fairgrounds to create a bright and welcoming addition at the entrance to the fairgrounds. The beds were filled with soil and a variety of brightly colored annuals from local greenhouses were installed in the gardens, then mulched. Throughout the summer MGVs watered and weeded the new gardens to keep the plantings looking inviting to visitors. In the future we hope to add a collection of perennials along with annuals.

Providing Gardening Information to Residents

One MGV has been writing a gardening article that is included in the local paper every week for many years. The topic of each article is focused on the current time of year to provide valuable, timely information for local residents. MGVs answer gardening questions through the garden help line throughout the year, as well as at booths at the Farmers Market in Argyle and at the Lafayette County Fair.

Volunteer Service in 2017

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<th>Hours</th>
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Since 2002: 6,425 hours at a value of over $120,296

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Lafayette Co.

- Argyle tiered garden
- Argyle Main Street
- Yellowstone Church garden
- Lafayette County Manor
- Lafayette County Fairgrounds
- Wiota Lutheran Church
- Wiota School house
- Johnson Public Library
The Master Gardener Program in Lincoln County just started in 2014. Over 14 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 4 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Development Educator Dan Marzu.

**Youth Introduced to Growing Vegetables**

In collaboration with the 4-H Cloverbud and Vegetable Projects MGV assisted with the first annual Youth Garden Giants Program at the community garden. Ten youth participated in the program. Each child was able to plant kohlrabi, cabbage, carrots, and beets in small garden plots. Prior to the fair a workshop was held to discuss with the youth how to properly clean and prepare the vegetables for the fair. At the end of the season they are able to take their produce home.

**Nursing Home Residents Engaged in Gardening**

MGVs continued gardening activities with Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill. With funds from a Wisconsin Partnership Program Grant through the UW School of Medicine and Public Health MGVs built a strawberry tower for the residents. In addition to the container gardens they assisted the residents in planting a raised bed for herbs, green beans, kohlrabi, and squash. Gardening activities or opportunities for the residents to reminisce about their garden were provided weekly. Twelve residents participated in the program.

**Planting Welcomes Visitors**

Since 2014, MGVs have landscaped the roundabout in Merrill that was once overgrown with weeds. Funding for the roundabout comes through Park City Garden Club and plant donations from area businesses and organizations. In 2017, they put in over 50 hours planning, planting, and maintaining the roundabout landscape to create an attractive area on this main thoroughfare through town to make the area more welcoming to visitors.

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**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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<th>Hours</th>
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**Value**

$5,258

Since 2014: 798 hours at a value of over $17,995

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

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**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Lincoln Co.**

- Tall Pines Community Garden
- Pine Crest Nursing Home
- Pine River School for Young Learners
- Merrill Enrichment Center
- Boy Scouts
- TB Scott Free Library
- Live Sustainable, Lincoln Co. HCE Group
- Pine River Middle School
The Master Gardener Program in Manitowoc County started in 1994. Over 260 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 25 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator responsible for the MG Program is Dairy/Livestock Agent Scott Gunderson.

Mariners Trail Gardens
Mariners Trail is the 5.5 mile trail linking Manitowoc and Two Rivers along the Lake Michigan coastline. It was established about 10 years ago and today contains over 50 flower beds with a waiting list for more. The Mariners Trail is one of Lakeshore’s Jewels and tourists and locals enjoy the walk along the lake. MGVs help maintain these gardens along with other organizations throughout Manitowoc County which include St. Francis of Assissi and Service League.

Garden Talk/Garden Walk Educates the Public
MGVs have always held a Garden Walk every other year and new this coming year is that we are adding a Garden Talk seminar for the public. (One year, we Walk, the next year, we Talk) These events provide education experiences for resident to learn about plants and gardening. This year our bi-annual Garden Walk had the largest attendance that we have had in years after embracing social media to get the message to the community.

Master Gardener Training
This year MGVs collaborated with UW-Manitowoc Continuing Education to offer the Level 1 training which allowed access to professors to teach the classes (and it simplified the registration process going online). The training was similar to past years, with classroom lectures or field trips every two weeks. Of the 9 students registered, 8 completed the class; they really bonded as a group and are excited to get involved and get volunteering. Bill’s comment “It was one of the best things I have ever done in my life when it comes to advance learning” sums up how successful the program was.
The Master Gardener Program in Marathon County started in 1995. Over 355 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 56 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Dairy Agent, MGV Advisor and Home Horticulture Advisor Heather Schlesser.

**Garden Attracts Pollinators and People**

Pollinators are coming to the native wildflowers in Rib Mountain State Park in a new planting around Rib Mountain’s new Friends Gathering Space. This spring MGVs installed 865 plants on a shady east slope that would control erosion, enhance the view and attract pollinators. This summer over 110 people came to see two educational exhibits in the gardens as part of our 2017 Garden Walk tour. In addition, shelter users, families, hikers and photographers are enjoying the new gardens while learning about the labeled plants and attracted pollinators.

**Demonstration Kitchen Garden**

Planting a vegetable garden just outside the kitchen door provides easily accessible healthy vegetables for family meals. Wausau’s Monk Botanical Gardens has raised beds for its large demonstration kitchen garden right next to their outdoor kitchen. Cooking demonstrations frequently start with picking ripe vegetables directly from the Kitchen Garden. Several community groups, including MGVs, maintain Monk’s Kitchen Garden. This year, MGVs developed the west border as a salsa garden, while the north border had ingredients for fresh vegetable soup.

**Annual Winter Conference Educates Gardeners**

*Garden Visions*, our annual Friday evening-Saturday winter conference, is designed to enhance participants’ plant and gardening knowledge. Attendance is steady each year with an average of 350 enthusiastic MGVs and Midwest gardeners coming to network and learn. Attendees can choose from a wide range of topics by national and local speakers in 15 breakout sessions.

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**The Master Gardener Program in Marathon County**

Marathon County UWEX Office  
212 River Drive  
Wausau, WI 54403  
marathon.uwex.edu

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**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
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</table>

Since 2000: 76,031 hours at a value of over $1,411,614

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

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**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Marathon Co.**

- Rib Mtn State Park Wildflower Project
- Monk Botanical Garden
- Cedar Creek Garden, Home & Rec Show
- Garden Walk with named plants
- Annual Plant Sale with guidance
- Garden Programs
- Woodson Art Museum
- Garden Clinic at UW Extension
The Master Gardener Program in Marinette County started in 1991. Over 263 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 42 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture and Horticulture Agent Scott Reuss.

**Garden Offers Learning Opportunities**

The gardens at Harmony Arboretum—designed, created and maintained by MGVs—offer self-guided learning opportunities at any time for youth, families, and individuals, as well as enhancing overall wellness, health, and social responsibility for environmental stewardship. Yearly and seasonal demonstrations showcase the many situations that residents can face in their own gardens while giving alternative options they can explore.

**Children Learn About Nature**

The *Kids Dig it!* event provided families with quality nature education experiences, while providing incentives to get out and explore in their own backyards. Creativity was sparked with hands on arts, getting dirty with lessons about soil helped explain its importance, and insects including honeybees were available to examine up close to give a better understanding of their influence on our lives. MGVs got the children involved with transplanting live plants and starting seeds to teach firsthand how they can do it themselves.

**Spring Garden Conference Educates Residents**

This annual event exposes attendees to many aspects of horticulture, reliable resources, and connects them with others who will share their trials and successes so fellow gardeners can learn from their experiences. Topics this year related to how to grow your food successfully included vegetables, fruits, herbs, even poultry/small animals just to name a few. With the information provided and resources presented attendees can get started gardening, renovate existing gardens, or change their gardening practices to ensure a bountiful harvest.
The Master Gardener Program in Marquette County started in 1998. Over 138 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 9 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Educator Lyssa Seefeldt.

Children Learn in Library Garden
MGVs partnered with the Westfield Library to install 4 raised beds (purchased with funds from the annual fruit tree sale). Over 100 youth participated in planting harvesting and playing in this garden. We kicked off the gardening season with a story as well as a make-and-take seed planting. Fairy gardens were installed to attract additional interest. Over 200 pounds of produce was harvested and donated to the community. One of the youth bubbled over with enthusiasm when it was garden time.....“I LOVE being in the garden!” Also heard by one incredulous youth: “There are really purple tomatoes?“.

Encouraging Produce Donations
Plant A Row for the Hungry (PAR) is a public service program of the Garden Writers of America, launched in 1995. This year MGVs distributed over 100 packets of free seeds to encourage local gardeners to plant an extra row of vegetable plants to donate to their local food pantry, food bank, or soup kitchen.

Fair Booth Offers Information, Answers
MGVs were back at the county fair with the Ask A Master Gardener booth. MGVs answered questions, distributed UW-Extension factsheets, and engaged the younger audience in gardening with plant coloring books and identification cards.

Annual Fruit Tree Sale Increases Produce Access
Each spring MGVs host a fruit tree and small plant sale. Once again, over 1,000 trees and small food plants were sold at economical prices to the community. This sale creates needed access to local produce, allowing the community to be more food secure.
The Master Gardener Program in Menominee County/Nation started in 2015. Nearly 20 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 3 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UWEX Educator facilitating the MG Program is Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development Jennifer Gauthier.

Earth Day Events Promote Milkweed & Pollinators

The Omāeqnomenēwak MGVs collaborated with the College of Menominee Nation on education events to celebrate Earth Day. MGVs researched and created a display about the common milkweed plant and the importance of pollinators. Milkweed seeds were distributed to community members to encourage planting pollinator gardens. Recipes were distributed as well as common milkweed, also known as anāēnawihsaeh in Menominee language, is a local food source.

4H Garden Project Teaches Children

MGVs volunteered monthly with the Menom 4-H Garden Project. They reviewed lesson plans, adapted activities so they were culturally relevant, and made sure events were as immersed in the environment as possible. Activities the youth liked most were the home composting bins and planting bean plants they could watch grow at home. Menominee language was a part of every lesson where both Omāeqnomenēwak MGVs and youth and their families learned words related to growing things.

Valuing Local Knowledge

MGVs meet to share ideas and find new learning opportunities, but always recognize and value local knowledge. Wherever possible, Menominee language and culture are integrated into learning and community experts have been very willing to share their knowledge. A prime example is the guided forest trail walks led by community members where participants learned about different plants, forest relationships and systems, and cultural teachings related to this.

Volunteer Service in 2017

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Since 2015: 596 hours at a value of over $11,417

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Menominee Co./Nation

- Menom 4-H Garden
- College of Menominee Nation Production Garden
- College of Menominee Nation Walking Trail
- Ketakaehwak Farmers Market
The Master Gardener Program in Milwaukee County started in 1977. Over 1,684 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 239 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. UW-Extension Consumer Horticulture Agent Sharon Morrisey facilitates the Program.

Project Wins National Excellence Award
The Lifelong Gardening Committee of the Southeast Wisconsin MGA was recognized at the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference in Portland, Oregon in July, with their submission *Gardening Through Life* earning 1st place in the Special Needs Category. For over seven years MGVs have provided education on principles and methods that enable gardeners to enjoy gardening throughout their lifetime. The curriculum was developed into a clear and concise program that can be shared with other MG programs nation-wide.

Native Wellness Garden Program Teaches Children
During a six week program MGVs taught children from preschool to teenagers at the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center about gardening by seeding two 3-foot high raised beds and monitoring weather conditions for growing conditions. The kids planted ten different vegetables, watered, weeded and then harvested the crop for the elders of their community. The children learned about seed germination, composting, soil testing, pollinators and what types of food grow in Wisconsin.

School Focused on Green Space
Maryland Avenue School is a Montessori school K3 -8 with 320 students. The school’s goal to convert asphalt to green space started in 2005 when a butterfly garden was installed. Much more asphalt has been removed since 2005, and the school grounds have become an urban sanctuary with trees, shrubs, and native perennials. The school boasts a rain garden, butterfly garden, cottage garden, bioswale, and a tree allee.
The Master Gardener Program in Oneida County started in 1999. Over 315 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 16 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension staff member facilitating the MG Program is Merry Lehner.

**Pollinator Garden Welcomes Visitors to Courthouse**
As the Oneida County seat, Rhinelander is often associated with its courthouse, topped by a Tiffany glass dome. Leading to the main entry are annual gardens maintained by MGVs. The garden this year was an explosion of color making it a butterfly magnet. A plant list was available to the public for creating their own pollinator garden. Plants included ageratum, cosmos, dahlias, dianthus, zinnias, asclepias, and cleome.

**School Garden Helps Kids Grow and Learn**
Crescent Elementary School in Rhinelander received a $1500 grant in 2016 to create a 45’ X 45’ garden area within the playground in six cedar, raised garden beds. Several children along with adult volunteers helped lay cardboard covered with wood chips to block the weeds between the beds and in the surrounding area. The children then helped plant many vegetables and several herbs under the direction of a local MGV. In 2017 they realized the need for a taller fence to protect the garden from deer. Another $1000 grant was put towards a taller fence. The children love working in the garden and are learning lots. They were overheard telling their friends at lunch when the first peppers were served that they helped plant them!

**Fresh Produce for Needy Families**
MGVs in Rhinelander continue to plant and tend a community garden in partnership with The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry to help provide food to needy families. They also pick a yard each month to receive a free water bill for the plantings in conjunction with the city.
The Master Gardener Program in Outagamie County started in 1999. Over 532 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 103 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Crops, Soils and Horticulture Agent Kevin Jarek.

**New Life for an Old Garden**

When the nationally recognized 1880’s Queen Anne style Hearthstone Historical House in Appleton needed a landscape to match, it turned to local MGVs for help. Old photos, period guides, and a 15-year old design inspired a plan that includes a curved walk, lush borders, a terrace overlooking the Fox River, and a secret garden. Through work days and tours, visitors of all ages get a sense of what plants were popular at the time and can learn how to create their own period-inspired garden.

**Seedy Saturday Educates about Plant Seeds**

MGVs helped the Appleton Seed Library host the community event *Seedy Saturday* held at the Appleton Memorial Park Gardens with 150 kids and adults at the open-house. There was an all day seed swap, keynote speaker Ben Cohen of Small House, local artisan vendors, and a seed-based menu created for people to purchase delicious food. Live music set the backdrop to this fun event.

**UW-Extension Grounds Renovated**

After establishing a Learning Garden on the UW-Extension grounds a few years ago, MGVs developed a cohesive plan to revitalize, replant and expand the property. A major effort was made to install an “Impact Garden” in place of the prairie test area. The rose, shade and memory gardens were updated, a new herb area was planted, the water and welcome gardens were refreshed, and a hosta test garden was installed. The pollinator garden is now an official Certified Wildlife Habitat® site with the National Wildlife Federation on, skirted by a path to the ephemeral pond installed by an Eagle Scout along with a handmade bench.

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**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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*Value: $239,420

Since 2000: 135,060 hours at a value of over $2,599,239

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

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**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Outagamie Co.**

- Appleton Downtown Farmers Market
- Appleton Public Library
- Outagamie County Fair
- Outagamie Breakfast on the Farm
- Gardens of the Fox Cities / Scheig Center
- Appleton Memorial Park Garden
- Outagamie Co UW-Extension Gardens
- Kaukauna Farmers Market
The Master Gardener Program in Ozaukee County started in 2000. Over 520 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 92 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Stephanie Plaster.

4-H Project Teaching Horticulture

MGVs taught environmentally responsible horticultural practices to a group of 4-H members ranging in age from 8 to 18, which was challenging to try to meet the needs, abilities, and stimulate the interest of each participant. Still in the planning phase. Still in the planning phase, there will be a teaching garden with raised beds, compost pile, and rain barrel at the local fairgrounds. At the monthly meetings, we will have speakers on a variety of topics and gardening projects to encourage active participation, including older members teaching the younger members.

Advocates of Ozaukee Garden Renovated

Due to a small work force, MGVs totally revamped the most labor-intensive garden—a very steep and long hillside filled with aggressive plants and some invasive species—to be a low maintenance space. After digging out the old plants, nearly 600 native plants were installed in drips using little bluestem, prairie dropseed, switchgrass, and butterfly weed (which hosted monarch caterpillars this year).

Community Garden Attracts Pollinators

MGVs focused their efforts on pollinators in the Washington County Community Garden, an Ozaukee MGV project located in West Bend, this year. Educational emails were sent to gardeners throughout the growing season with information and instructions regarding the application or elimination of bee-harming pesticides. A 15’ x 20’ plot was entirely dedicated to pollinator-friendly perennials and annuals, creating an ideal environment for our bees. They provided 30 pounds of honey which has been shared with all of the gardeners.

Volunteer Service in 2017

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Since 2000: 89,638 hours at a value of over $1,718,678

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Ozaukee Co.

- Port Triangle Garden, Port Washington
- Lasata Care Center, Cedarburg
- Kuhefuss House Museum, Cedarburg
- Advocates for Women & Children Center
- Ozaukee County Fair
- Pioneer Village, Saukville
- Webster Middle School teaching garden
- Tendick Park, Saukville
The Master Gardener Program in Pierce County started in 1997. Over 405 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 24 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Diana Alfuth.

Teaching Kids About Plants Not to Eat or Touch
Each year MGVs partner with the UW-Extension Youth Development agent on Rural Safety Day. All 4th graders in the county come to the fairground and learn about 10-12 topics related to being safe. MGVs talk about “Perilous Plants”—plants that can be harmful either by being touched or eaten, such as wild parsnip, poison ivy, fruits and berries, thorns and more are covered. Over 450 kids—and their teachers and parent chaperons—are reached.

Educating Children on Gardening Topics
Twenty five kids aged 6-12 participated in the 5th annual Junior Garden U held at the UWEX Demonstration and Learning Garden in River Falls at the Grow to Share Community Garden. MGVs taught hands-on workshops about roots and plant vascular systems, hydroponic growing, wildlife in the garden (friend and foe), and how Native Americans gardened. Participants learned various ways to garden and were able to take home a “toad abode” and a hydroponic lettuce garden.

Demo Garden Shows How to Grow Plants
MGVs help the UWEX Horticulture Educator plan, plant and maintain the Demonstration and Learning Garden (a partnership with a local community garden) to educate local residents about gardening. This year’s themes were Heirloom Gardening, Native American Gardening, and Lettuce, with 24 different varieties that garden visitors could taste test and see different growth habits. Produce from the garden is donated to hunger prevention efforts. The garden is used for small-group classes throughout the year, and signage allows visitors to learn via self-tours.

Volunteer Service in 2017

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Since 2000: 51,125 hours at a value of over $960,919

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Pierce Co.
- River Falls Farmers Market
- Pierce County Fair
- UW-Extension Demonstration Garden
- Grow to Share Community Garden
- River Falls area Rain Gardens
- Prescott Freedom Park
- River Falls White Pathway and Parks
- Ellsworth community projects
The Master Gardener Program in Polk County started in 2001. Over 150 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 16 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension staff member facilitating the MG Program is Wendy Linke.

**Entrance Sign Garden Planted**
Quarter Moon Acres Equine Therapy Center in rural Amery is a non-profit equine therapy center operated strictly by volunteers to provide therapeutic riding for adults and children with emotional, mental or physical challenges. In June MGVs planned and planted a new perennial flower garden around the sign at the entrance, providing the plants, soil amendments, mulch and bricks for edging to make the area more inviting for visitors.

**Supplying Fresh Produce to the Local Food Pantry**
This year MGVs again planted and maintained garden beds at the Amery Community Gardens in order to donate the produce. Approximately 121 pounds of tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, carrots and green beans were produced for the Amery Food Pantry from the three beds that were rented.

**Garden Signs Made**
MGV Pamm Torrence worked with a local individual to create metal signs with the Master Gardener logo on it and had several made. She then donated them to the Polk County MGVs to use in all the gardens that they maintain on a regular basis.

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**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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Since 2001: 11,597 hours at a value of over $211,927

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

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**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Polk Co.**

- Polk County Fairgrounds
- Luck Municipal Library
- Quarter Moon Equine Therapy Center
- Garfield Park
- Amery Community Gardens
- Luck Campground
The Master Gardener Program in Portage Co. started in 1991. Over 317 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 36 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. UW-Extension Agriculture Agent Ken Schroeder facilitates the MG Program in Portage Co.

Supporting YMCA Giving Gardens

MGVs worked in cooperation with the YMCA to plant, maintain, and harvest produce from 26 raised beds located at the YMCA. More than 800 pounds of produce was distributed to students, their families and elderly and disabled citizens through the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Students in YMCA programs participated in weekly learning experiences focusing on growing fruit and vegetables and healthy eating. Each student had hands-on experience with their own small garden site, as well as helping with the raised beds.

Educating the Public About Pollinators and More

MGVs presented Garden Dreams, a one-day educational workshop open to the public, which included talks on beekeeping and plants for pollinator gardens. Education on pollinators remained a focus at the Plover Public Library garden site, as well as a special display developed in conjunction with the UWSP Schmeekle Reserve Visitor Center. Additional displays at this year’s Garden Parade included presentations on cavity-nesting songbirds, sustainable organic farming, and community food security efforts through the Giving Gardens Program.

Enhancing Food Security

About $2,000 in donations collected at this year’s Garden Parade was given to Backpacks for Hope to provide supplemental food through the Boys and Girls Club of Portage County to school-age children who might otherwise go hungry on the weekends when they do not receive meals at school. Volunteers fill backpacks with enough food for four meals and an additional snack for each child for a weekend.
The Master Gardener Program in Price Co. started in 1999. Over 130 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 13 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture/Agriculture Educator Jodi Podmolik.

Helping Students Learn about Plants and Nature

MGVs renovated the outdoor classroom at the Phillips Elementary School, a large space that has benches, plants and a lot of room to learn. MGVs also assisted in the classrooms with horticulture programs for the youth.

Community Gardens Donate Food

MGVs helped grow a variety of vegetables in several locations including Flambeau River Community Growing Center, Harmony Community Gardens, and Phillips Community Garden. This is the first year the MGVs collected and weighed fresh produce to distribute to local food pantries. The group donated over 800 pounds of produce to Lord’s Cupboard in Park Falls and St. Vincent DePaul’s food pantries in Catawba and Phillips.

Teaching Youth about Gardening

MGVs partnered with 4-H youth leaders to teach children about plants. As part of their training in the spring, MG students participated in hands-on activities including planting seeds and transplanting and learned about the greenhouse facility at Flambeau River Community Growing Center. The MGVs then joined with the youth leaders to explain what was done to make their plants grow and what they need to do to keep them looking great. They also taught about cost savings, budgeting, how to calculate planting space and more. Later in June MGVs helped the 4-H members plant plants at the fairgrounds. In addition, MGVs taught about plant identification for 4-H youth and the residents in the assisted living gardens at the Aspirus Pleasant View nursing home.
The Master Gardener Program in Racine County started in 1994. Over 455 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 91 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Jeanne Hilinske-Christensen.

**Education at Tomatomania**

A local garden center in Racine hosts a one-day event called *Tomatomania* where they celebrate everything tomato! They allow customers to sample numerous varieties of tomatoes and then rate them. With the focus being tomatoes, there are booths selling foods containing tomatoes, beverages made with tomatoes, and informational booths about tomatoes. MGVs staffed a booth at this annual event, assisting with 54 inquiries during the 4 hour event.

**Ridgewood Care Center Plantings**

For many years, high profile areas around the Ridgewood Care Center campus have been planted and maintained by MGVs for the benefit of the 200 residents, 300 employees, and the many visitors to the facility. The annual plantings add color to the entrance while attractive perennial beds edge outdoor seating areas. The Ridgewood Care Center has recently been sold and will no longer be owned by a non-profit agency, therefore this MG project will end in 2017.

**Wind Point Lighthouse Gardens Highlight History**

Gardens containing plant material with historical significance to the Wind Point Lighthouse located in Racine are planted and maintained by MGVs on the lighthouse property. An herb garden greets visitors at the entrance of the property while lavish, manicured gardens border the edge of the beach along Lake Michigan. Tours of the lighthouse and adjacent grounds are offered on specific days throughout the growing season, allowing people to learn about plants that were grown there in the past and their uses.
The Master Gardener Program in Rock County started in 1985. Over 360 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 31 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Educator Nick Baker.

**Protecting Pollinators**

MGVs began a Pollinator Project to educate the public on the importance of pollinators. We designed and printed a tri-fold pamphlet on the project; taught an introductory class called Pollinators 101 which was open to the public; and taught students at VanBuren School about pollinators and how to build pollinator houses and donated seeds to the students for their pollinator garden. MGVs also planted four pollinator gardens in Janesville: two at the Rock County Community Gardens (one of annuals and one of perennials), an herb pollinator garden at the Rock County Fairgrounds, and an all perennial garden at Hedberg Public Library. MGVs are working in conjunction with Hedberg to establish a Bee Nook of books in a small corner of the library that looks out over the pollinator garden. The next phase of this project will be offering Pollinator 101 classes for service groups and the library and offering hands-on classes on how to plan and plant a pollinator garden.

**Creating a Seed Library**

In collaboration with a librarian at one of the smaller libraries in the Arrowhead Library System in Rock County, MGVs set up seed libraries in all seven System libraries which will debut in early 2018.

**Encouraging Others to Garden**

MGVs staffed tables at Farmers Markets in Janesville and Beloit on four different days. We encouraged gardening by distributing free seeds and plants, demonstrated how to make solitary bee houses, distributed literature from the DNR about jumping worms, and answered general garden questions with over 300 people.

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**The Master Gardener Program in Rock County**

Rock County UWEX Office  
51 S Main Street  
Janesville, WI 53545  
https://rock.uwex.edu

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<td>Value*</td>
<td>$66,298</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 2000: 79,827 hours at a value of over $1,468,622  
* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Rock Co.**

- Rotary Botanical Gardens  
- Rock County Community Gardens  
- Rock County UW-Extension Office  
- Rock County Community Gardens  
- Saint Elizabeth Manor, Footville  
- Rotary BG Children’s Education Programs  
- Janesville Elementary Schools  
- Arrowhead Library System Seed Libraries
The Master Gardener Program in Sauk County started in 2003. Over 280 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 27 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Phyllis Both.

**Pollinator Project Helps Bees**

MGVs installed bee houses for carpenter bees andbumble bees and maintain three honey bee hives throughout the year. The hives produced over 100 pounds of honey this year. The nearby prairie for the pollinators includes two acres of native forbs and one plot of buckwheat. UWEX Horticulture Educator Phyllis Both gives tours of the area to local groups and includes information on the prairies and the pollinator project.

**Apothecary Garden Shows History**

MGVs have maintained an apothecary garden at the Reedsburg Area Historical Pioneer Log Village since 2013. The garden, filled with herbs and medicinal plants, provides visitors with historical perspective to what these types of gardens were like in the past. MGVs provide both in-person educational tours and now have a fact sheet available for visitors to learn about uses of the plants. The herbs are not only for demonstrations, a local restaurant uses the herbs in their menu.

**Totally Tomato Promotes Growing Vegetables**

The *Totally Tomato* project was a two-part series held at the Reedsburg Public Library. For the first part MGVs taught the basics of tomato gardening after participants purchased different varieties of tomatoes, both hybrids and heirlooms, which MGVs had planted. In the fall, participants gathered again at the library, bringing samples of the tomatoes they grew. A tomato tasting and educational discussion was held to teach participants a variety of ways to use tomatoes. The most popular activity was voting on which tomato variety tasted the best.
The Master Gardener Program in Sawyer County started in 1999. Over 65 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 4 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Kevin Schoessow.

**Garden Demonstrates Plants for the Area**

MGVs contribute significantly to the Spooner Agriculture Research Station Teaching and Display Garden. During the growing season the garden hosts many training events and has visitors from schools, garden clubs, and residents of the area. Featured in the garden this year was ornamental edibles, All American Selections annual flowers, and a perennial display. The garden has won national awards from the All American Selections Landscape Garden Design Contest, first place in 2017. Some of the vegetables are donated to the Hayward Community Food Shelf and the Sawyer County Senior Center.

**School Program Teaches Gardening**

There are 120 children at the Hayward Primary School who have participated during the spring as 2nd graders and the fall as 3rd graders. They have learned as part of their curriculum about plants, soils and compost and then applied their learning in the school garden with the assistance of MGVs. Some earn Blooming Gardeners Badges by participating, taking care of the garden for a week during the summer with their parents and completing a learning summary.

**Plantings Beautify Hayward**

MGVs who are also part of the Hayward Garden Club have made a difference in their community with plantings at the Post Office, at a major crossroads in the center of town, at the Hayward Library, and at the Hayward Food Shelf. Perennials were provided and used by the Hayward Garden Club at the Chamber of Commerce garden bed as well as the annual plant sale. Additionally, some plants were used at the Hayward Food Shelf sign as a stand-alone project.
The Master Gardener Program in Shawano County started in 2007. Over 52 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 18 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Jamie Patton.

**Plant Sale Supports Local Education**

The Wolf River MGVs hosted their first plant sale in many years at the seasonal grand opening of the Shawano Farmer’s Market. MGVs donated plants from their own gardens, as well as sold a number of former “Hosta of the Year” winners. Community members enjoyed the diversity of plants for sale, as well as the expert advice in plant selection, planting and care provided by the MGVs. The plant sale raised more than $1,100 to support local educational activities.

**Fitness Trail Landscaped for Year-Round Appeal**

MGVs provided design advice for newly developed gardens on the General Cone Memorial Fitness Trail at Hope Community Church in Shawano. The one-mile fitness trail is open to the public and features eight challenge stations, a reflection garden, and several aesthetic gardens along a blacktopped trail. MGVs shared their expertise in selecting bulbs, perennials, annuals and shrubs with the trail organizers to provide year-round appeal for human and wildlife visitors.

**Worshops Educate on Gardening Topics**

Working with the Shawano City-County Library, MGVs hosted a series of eight workshops for community members at the library. MGV presenters covered a wide variety of gardening topics, from seed saving to container gardening, throughout the spring, summer and fall to celebrate the grand opening of the library’s seed library. Using an informal, discussion format, the MGVs provided 12 hours of education to more than 80 participants.
The Master Gardener Program in Sheboygan County started in 1988. Over 397 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 60 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Mike Ballweg.

Children Learn to Grow and Eat Vegetables

MGVs partnered with our local children’s museum *Eat, Play and Grow* weekly sessions to give children and adults the chance to experience what gardening has to offer. MGVs were responsible for planting and maintaining four raised beds and one garden plot, and worked directly with children of all ages to prepare, plant, weed, water, observe and harvest the vegetables and fruits. The museum staff used the produce harvested to provide a healthy snack.

Sensory Plants Added to Yankee Garden

Yankee Garden in the heart of Sheboygan Falls includes perennials, native grasses, a stepping stone path, a Little Free Library and an education changeable sign post. This year the featured education is a sensory plant selection. Each touch, smell, and taste plant is pictured on the sign, and labeled in place. MGVs partner with Sheboygan Falls Chamber-Main Street to maintain the area. The gardens receive compliments from locals and tourists alike.

Fostering Composting at UW-Sheboygan

After taking the Level II Training Compost Class in March, 12 MGVs partnered with the UW-Sheboygan Cafeteria to start a composting program, saving the kitchen scraps for a campus compost pile. To encourage student participation, MGVs prepared a compost information poster that was placed in the cafeteria and offered other incentives to students. MGVs also advised and supervised a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout Badge project building a 3-bin cement block compost bin on the campus. An outdoor sign will be placed by the compost bin to explain the importance of composting.

### Volunteer Service in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ed</td>
<td>188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Ed</td>
<td>158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>4,076</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
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Value* $101,948

Since 2000: 68,672 hours at a value of over $1,306,520

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

### Where you can find activities by MGVs in Sheboygan Co.

- Bookworm Gardens, UW-Sheboygan
- Generations, Plymouth
- John Michael Kohler Arts Center
- Kohler Andre State Park, Town of Wilson
- Marsh Park Tower, Elkhart Lake
- Plymouth Art Center, Plymouth
- Sheboygan Co. MG Facebook page
- UW Sheboygan Campus, Sheboygan
The Master Gardener Program in St. Croix County started in 1997. Over 405 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 92 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Diana Alfuth.

**Showcasing Growing Vegetables**

MGVs expanded their St. Croix County fair presence this year with a large educational display about growing vegetables in small spaces. A landscape beautification project around a fairground building provided the backdrop for a display showing various small space gardening techniques, including containers, a pallet garden, a straw bale garden, a small raised bed, a vertical planter and more. MGVs were on hand to discuss each of these methods with hundreds of people, and to provide written instructions about how to be successful at home.

**Providing Timely Information on Pests and More**

Local farmers markets are an effective location for MGVs to educate the public. Market attendees often seek information on growing produce at home, and also have questions about yards, landscapes and houseplants. MGVs attend the market each week and provide educational and diagnostic services. Because of the regular weekly presence, MGVs are able to provide timely information about current issues, such as Japanese beetles and late blight.

**Increasing Knowledge to be More Effective MGVs**

Each fall the St. Croix Valley MGA hosts a fall educational workshop for area MGVs to help them increase their knowledge to be better and more effective MGVs. This year’s theme was plant propagation. Attendees learned about fruits and grafting methods, propagating sedum and other perennials, seed collecting and saving, and more. This workshop, for MGVs only, provides an opportunity for MGVs to receive a high level of technical information so that they are better prepared to teach others.

### Volunteer Service in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Adult Ed</td>
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<td>3,403</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value*</td>
<td>$78,479</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Since 2000: 51,125 hours at a value of over $960,919

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in St. Croix Co.

- Hudson Farmers Markets
- New Richmond Community Garden
- Houlton School Garden
- CCH Therapy Garden
- St. Croix County Fair
- St. Patrick School Garden
- Willow River Elementary School
- Hudson and New Richmond Parks
The Master Gardener Program in Vilas County started in 2010. Over 130 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 16 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Summer Horticulturist/Nutrition Educator Mary Stys.

**Sixth Graders Learn About Micro Greens**

Every September the Vilas County Youth Coalition hosts a Positive Alternative Conference for the sixth graders where MGVs offer an interactive activity related to gardening or nutrition. This year our contribution was planting sunflower micro greens. Students tasted, learn about the high nutritional value of micro greens, and planted a container to take home with them along with instructions. Many of the students were hesitant to taste the greens but then loved the taste, some coming back for another sample, again and again. More than 500 students took these “mini gardens” home to grow and enjoy.

**Community Garden is a Place to Share**

Our Community Garden offers individual plots for families to grow their own veggies, youth education plots, and a hoop house growing produce exclusively for our Food Pantry. Once a week the MGVs and Farm to School Educator hosted the 4-H Club in the garden to share our knowledge and pass along our love of gardening to another generation. Students learn to plant, weed, identify pests, taste the veggies, and love to find worms.

**Farm to School Connects Students with Food**

Over 1200 students at 8 different Northland Pines Schools have had unique opportunities helping connect them with gardening and food in the Farm to School program. MGVs teach in the gardens and help with school nutrition events and bringing school grown produce into classrooms and cafeterias. MGA donations helped build gardens at the grade schools, get tools, seeds, as well as materials for winter sowing in the classrooms.

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**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ed</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Ed</td>
<td>124</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>866</td>
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</table>

**Value** $19,970

**Since 2010: 13,827 hours at a value of over $257,236**

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

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**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Vilas Co.**

- Northland Pines Community Garden
- Eagle River Depot Gardens
- Walter Olson Seed Library
- Eagle River Farmers Market
- St Germain Veterans Memorial
- Farm to School Projects
- Eagle River Mainstreet planters
- MGV monthly garden presentations
The Master Gardener Program in Walworth County started in 1999. Over 421 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 55 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Chrissy Wen.

**Honeybee Challenge Educates About Pollinators**

Pollinator education continues to be a large component of community outreach efforts across Walworth County. In a cross program effort between 4-H youth development, horticulture, and the MGVs, a pollinator lesson was taught in 16 classes and educated 332 youth. The lesson included a highly interactive pollination activity and exploring how bees collect pollen and nectar.

**School Garden Improves Low-income Community**

Phoenix Middle School in Delevan, WI was the recipient of a Garden Wise grant that was offered through the Food Wise program. MGVs Sherry Mathews and Larissa Bilous were partners in the grant and helped implement the garden plan, engaged student learners, and were major contributors to the success of the garden. Produce was used by multiple families, students, and food pantries. The project engaged 78 sixth grade students and 100 pounds of produce was donated to food pantries.

**MGV Interns Make Positive Changes**

In partnership with the Walworth County Lakeland Health Care Center (LHCC), the 2017 Walworth County MG Level 1 training includes an opportunity for MGV interns to develop and teach an adult lesson with the LHCC residents. The interns worked in small groups to develop, implement, and evaluate four lessons reaching 19 adult learners. Though each lesson shared a component of horticulture, interns evaluated the impacts of how the lesson impacted overall human well-being.
The Master Gardener Program in Washburn County started in 1999. Over 160 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 15 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Kevin Schoessow.

Garden Demonstrates Ornamental Edibles

The Spooner Agriculture Research Station Teaching and Display Garden is designed and maintained with the help of volunteers. During the growing season the garden hosts many training events and has visitors from schools, garden clubs, and residents of the area. The garden has won national awards for the past five years from the All American Selections Landscape Garden Design Contest, this year winning first place with the theme of Ornamental Edibles. The judges were impressed with the overall designs in the gardens and also how garden staff and volunteers promoted the contest with newsletters, workshops, events and multiple media outreach.

Mini-Master Gardeners

We host an annual Mini Master Gardener Short Course for youth and their families every spring. This year 30 children attended the Saturday workshop session held at a local greenhouse. The participants explore the secrets of soil, incredible edibles, seeds, sprouts and shoots; paper pots; and tomato transplants.

Helping at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary

Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary in Sarona benefits from MGVs assisting with maintaining the native plantings and staffing programs. MGVs staffed a booth at the annual Prairie Fling to help educate local residents and visitors. One of 35 booths, MGVs greeted visitors with their families, provided information and a hands-on family activity: making newspaper pots, planting bean seeds, and quizzing/reviewing what plants need to grow.

Volunteer Service in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ed</td>
<td>182</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Ed</td>
<td>131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>907</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Value* $28,110

Since 2000: 19,614 hours at a value of over $364,651

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Washburn Co.

- Spooner Agriculture Research Station Teaching and Display Garden
- School Gardens in Spooner
- Spooner Food Pantry Garden
- Spooner Library
- Washburn County Family Fest
- Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary
- Washburn County Fair
The Master Gardener Program in Washington County started in 2009. Over 180 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 39 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Educator Stephanie Plaster.

**Hosting the State MG Conference**

MGVs hosted the *Master at the Prairie* Wisconsin Master Gardener Association State Conference in October at West Bend Mutual Insurance Company Prairie Center. 16 entertained 150 attendees on Friday and 172 on Saturday. Topics ranged from growing lavender to growing succulents, gardening for pollinators to deer resistant gardens, herb gardening to gardening tools. Other events included delicious meals, 15 local vendors featuring many garden-related items, a Holland bulb sale, free seeds packets donated by local stores, and a silent auction.

**Produce for Seniors**

Two Washington County community gardens and the fair garden supply fresh vegetables to local senior centers on a weekly basis during the growing season. Beans, tomatoes, Swiss chard, potatoes, kale, cucumbers, onions, beets, kohlrabi, zucchini, yellow squash, peppers, Brussels sprouts, eggplant, and herbs are provided free for seniors. This season, 600 pounds of produce were delivered to the West Bend and Germantown senior centers. This helps seniors who no longer garden, don’t visit local farmers markets, or won’t purchase fresh produce at grocery stores.

**Providing Gardening Information**

MGVs bring garden information to the public with our Washington County Fair Park gardens, the Ag Adventureland children’s booth at the County Fair, our West Bend Farmers Market booth, at West Bend Library garden lectures, and with our Plant Health Telephone Hotline. New this year is a line of informational brochures, researched and written by our own MGVs, first available at the state conference.
The Master Gardener Program in Waukesha County started in 1998. Over 1,084 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 224 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Consumer Horticulture Educator Ann Wied.

**Project Wins National Excellence Award**

The Lifelong Gardening Committee of the Southeast Wisconsin MGA was recognized at the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference in Portland, Oregon in July, with their submission *Gardening Through Life* earning 1st place in the Special Needs Category. For over seven years MGVs have provided education on principles and methods that enable gardeners to enjoy gardening throughout their lifetime. The curriculum was developed into a clear and concise program that can be shared with other MG programs nation-wide.

**Waukesha County Fair Booth Offers Youth Activities**

Four MGVs staffed the tables each day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Youth and adults stopped by the tables and participated in four free youth gardening activities that were offered. Educational literature was also available on a number of topics and was shared with adults when they stopped by. Over 315 people (primarily children) participated in the activities.

**Vegetable Garden Supplies Food Pantry**

MGVs grow about three dozen types of vegetables each year at Eble Park Vegetable Garden to supply the Food Pantry of Waukesha County with fresh vegetables during the growing season. This year over 3,800 pounds of vegetables were donated. A group of 12 MGVs work each Tuesday evening throughout the growing season to plant, maintain and harvest produce. With a mix of new and seasoned MGVs working together everyone also learns while participating. In the off season this garden is used to overwinter plants donated for the MGV plant sale in spring.
The Master Gardener Program in Waupaca County started in 1994. Over 195 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 26 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Greg Blonde.

Offering Educational Programs for the Public
MGVs opened eight of their monthly meetings during the fall and winter of 2016-2017 to the public so local residents could learn about gardening by attending the educational programs that are held before or after the monthly business meeting. Some of the wide variety of topics offered included growing garlic in Wisconsin, growing various types of bulbs and a number of specific flowers. One of the most popular programs was on raising bees. These programs drew 10-25 attendees each.

Teaching Children About Gardening
MGVs help at two gardens in partnership with city parks and recreation department and one that is part of a Head Start Site. The three gardens impact about 60 children and their families. MGVs teach the children learn how to grow and take care of a garden. They get to take vegetables home or use them at the garden site to learn preservation techniques.

Community Garden Produces
MGVs partnered with the Waupaca High School and several service organizations to plant and maintain the Community Garden at the high school. The Waupaca FFA starts all the seedling plants for the garden and various classes help to plant and maintain the garden with MGV instruction and supervision. During the summer students from the agriculture classes help maintain the 1½ acre garden which produced 8 tons of vegetables that were given to food pantries, meal programs and senior citizen sites.

Volunteer Service in 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Ed</td>
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<td>Support</td>
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<td>Value*</td>
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Since 2000: 65,920 hours at a value of over $1,193,245

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Waupaca Co.

- Waupaca County Fair Grounds
- Waupaca Children’s Garden
- Head Start Garden Tower Road
- St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Waupaca
- Mission of Hope, New London
- Waupaca Community Garden, Waupaca
- Franklin Park, New London
- Most Precious Blood Catholic Church
The Master Gardener Program in Waushara County started in 2001. Over 165 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 26 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Ken Williams.

**Educating the Public**

MGVs educated over 900 people through hosting speakers, providing extension publications on a wide range of horticultural topics and answering questions at various events throughout the county which included several designed to reach under served populations. “Door prizes” of plants were offered at several of these events to encourage people to visit the booth which was resoundingly successful in getting visitors to stop by, selecting information and asking questions.

**Teaching Children About Gardening**

MGVs partnered with local schools to do hands-on teaching of gardening to almost 200 children. Children were taught how to plant one of an assortment of flower and vegetable seeds in a mini greenhouse to take home and provided with written instructions for ongoing care. They also were given the opportunity to participate in a contest to grow the best sunflower and prizes given at end of season.

**Gardens Demonstrate Plants and Techniques**

MGVs partnered with Hancock Research Station staff to maintain 5 acres of gardens containing annuals, perennials, shrubs, small trees fruits. Plants have signage to educate the public on what can be grown in our zone and soil, areas of shade, areas of sun as well as a demonstration of a raised bed that is accessible for those that might not be able to bend and several square foot vegetable and herb gardens. Produce is donated to the food pantry. Gardens are open to the public from dawn until dusk and in August MGVs were present throughout the garden for the Research Station tour and open house.

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**Volunteer Service in 2017**

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<td>Support</td>
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<td>2,215</td>
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<td>Value*</td>
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</table>

Since 2001: 32,351 hours at a value of over $621,250

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

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**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Waushara Co.**

- Hancock Research Station Gardens
- Waushara County Fairgrounds
- Covered Bridge gardens
- Wild Rose Library seed exchange
- Redgranite Library garden
- Bird Creek Park
- Wautoma City Hall
- Wautoma Library seed exchange
The Master Gardener Program in Winnebago County started in 1990. Over 533 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 92 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Kimberly Miller.

**Educating Youth on Natural Communities**

MGVs worked with the Oshkosh Area School District and its volunteers to educate students about natural communities and invasive species utilizing Sullivan’s Woods, a 40 acre woodland encompassing remnants of forest and savanna, a pond, and an old field and wetland of predominately reed canary grass. Annually, about 650 students, pass through these woods, once in the spring as 4th graders and once in the fall as 5th graders. Over 50,000 students have been educated on habitat types; and experience plants and animals through hands-on activities.

**Increasing Accessibility to Fresh Foods**

MGVs and others partnered with the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry to help increase access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables for low-income families in the county. A series of three classes taught pantry customers nutrition basics, benefits to growing their own fruits and vegetables along with how to plant and care for a container garden. Each family received their own vegetable and herb container garden. The program inspired and supported residents to grow their own food.

**Neenah Public Library Welcomes Butterflies**

MGVs registered the library’s perennial garden they planted to receive the Million Pollinator and Monarch Watch Waystation designations. Following their leadership, Neenah Mayor Dean Kaufert took the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayor’s Monarch Pledge committing future resources and care for the library gardens, to create additional habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educate citizens about how they can make a difference at home and in their community.

**Volunteer Service in 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Youth Ed</td>
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<td>Adult Ed</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Value** $165,386

Since 2000: 111,326 hours at a value of over $2,102,131

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Winnebago Co.

- Omro Carter Memorial Library
- Neenah Shattuck Park
- Neenah Octagon House
- Oshkosh Area Humane Society Garden
- Oshkosh Farmers Market
- Park View Health Center
- Morgan House
- Paine Gardens & Arboretum
The Master Gardener Program in Wood County started in 1997. Over 443 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 60 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2018. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Horticulture Educator Jeremy Erickson.

Connecting With the Next Generation of Gardeners
MGVs offered a variety of public programs for 2,344 youth who experienced designing/planting a Youth Art Gallery Garden, created boot/shoe succulent planters, learned how to grow a sunflower at a children’s festival, how to plant/harvest produce at community gardens, the value of a monarch garden, the value of composting, names of plants, how to plant bulbs, all about pollinators, and the importance or growing their own food to eat and share with friends, family, others. They also learned leadership and speaking skills as they presented a garden tour of their school gardens to MGVs.

Documenting Education Contacts
MGVs engage and educate the public in numerous presentations, festivals, fairs, plants sales, farmers markets, individual conversations and other events. To document these contacts we developed a Self-evaluation Form and a Year End Tally of Community Education Form which are filled out all year long and then handed in Oct. 1st along with hours form. In 2017 we made contact with 9,351 adults in a variety of settings.

Central Wisconsin State Fair Booth Informs
This year we took our *Ask a Master Gardener* program to the fair for 6 days. Our booth display included our 7 display tri-folds created to celebrate our 20th Anniversary plus gardening information. We offered handouts about the most popular topics, insects, diseases and other garden related materials and had a form to ask questions that would be answered later. We have a demonstration garden on the fairgrounds which drew huge crowds with numerous questions.

Volunteer Service in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ed</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Ed</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>6,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value*</td>
<td>$170,667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 2000: 113,990 hours at a value of over $2,116,933

* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of $23.06 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.

Where you can find activities by MGVs in Wood Co.

- WCMGV Monthly Educational Programs
- Farmers Markets
- Wood County Libraries
- Central Wisconsin State Fair
- Q & A at UW Extension Office
- Community Gardens- 2 sites
- Mead Wild Life Center
- FaceBook/Website Online Q & A
Master Gardener Volunteers are trained volunteers who aid University of Wisconsin-Extension staff by helping people in the community better understand horticulture and their environment.