

Jefferson County Master Gardener Volunteer Service Gardening Project Annual Report

Gardening Project: **HOARD HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

Year: **2014**

Submitted by: Sue Z.

Date Submitted: October 2, 2014

A. Gardening Project Activities:

1. Describe the projects, activities, educational programs, etc. conducted this year.

In 2014 the Hoard Historical Museum's MGs (all JCMGVA members) were involved in numerous garden and educational projects and activities at the Museum, including:

- Provided active leadership on the Gardens' Committee and the Garden Programming Committee, which coordinates with the Museum's director all gardening activities, including the volunteer program and education programs
- Planned and presented 8 garden education programs open to the public
 - 1- March- Water Management
 - 2- April- Seed Starting
 - 3- May- Seedling Planting
 - 4- June- Peony Q&A session in the Peony Garden
 - 5- July- Walk and Talk about Museum Gardens
 - 6- August- Garden Tour
 - 7- September- Thyme to Talk Herbs Seminar
 - 8- November- Local Garden Traditions
- Worked with Museum garden volunteers on Work Days weeding, refining, and maintaining 5 Museum gardens: the peony, rain, herb, entry, and perennial fence gardens
- Publicized garden programming via the excellent in-depth articles written by the Museum director for the Jefferson County Daily Union about all of the Museum Garden events. All programs had at least 2 articles and the Garden Conference had 4 articles and referenced the cooperation and coordination of the JCMGVA program with the Museum.
- Coordinated with the City Council the June 9, 2014 WI state proclamation declaring Fort Atkinson as the Intersectional Peony City of Wisconsin
- Presented the Garden Volunteer of the Year Award to Guy H at the annual Volunteers' Reception in September
- JCMGVA member Beverly D received the Museum's Volunteer of the Year Award
- Promoted the Museum's Intersectional Peony Garden with a PPT Program at the Door County MG Meeting in Sturgeon Bay, WI
- Painted the Fence Garden Obelisk
- Continued work on text for permanent outdoor signs for the Peony and Rain Gardens

2. List the NEW successes and/or expansion of this project.

- Developed and planned the Sept. 13 Hoard Museum Gardening Seminar, Thyme to Talk Herbs, attended by 23 people. The half-day seminar, free to the public, was conducted by JCMGVA members and featured the Foster Herb Garden.
- Hosted a Guided Garden Tour for Walworth County MGs
- Revised the Intersectional Peony pamphlet
- Started planting the front sign garden
- Updated the Foster House Herb Garden
- Redesigned and planted landscape plants along the north perimeter of the Hoard building

3. Describe the problems and challenges you encountered.

- Attracting additional MGs so that the Museum's programs and gardens can be maintained

4. Changes and improvements planned for next year

- Finalizing and installing the Rain and Peony Gardens outdoor signs
- Planning the 5-6 Garden Education programs for the 2015 Garden Education series
- Creating events surrounding the blooming seasons of the Museum's Peony and Rain Gardens
- Suggesting grounds improvement projects and priorities to the Museum Director
- Continuing to grow and maintain the Garden volunteers for events and garden work
- Updating the Herb Garden brochure and creating brochures for the 2 other gardens
- Updating the garden section on the Museum's website
- Developing fundraising activities such as plant sales, tours, and events
- Continuing the June 9, 2015 WI Proclamation for the Intersectional Peony City designation

5. Steps taken in planning and implementing the project

An outline of the year's activities and timeline is developed by the Museum Director with the assistance of the Garden Curators, the Garden Volunteer Coordinator, and the Museum Volunteer Coordinator.

6. How the project made a difference

Public awareness, visibility, and attendance at activities are some measures of how successful the Museum's projects are. The following were some indications of the 2014 successes:

- Attendance at the Garden Education Programs were consistently high due to awareness that the Museum has quality garden programs all year long.
- The State Proclamation of Fort Atkinson as Wisconsin's Intersectional Peony City also created visibility and public awareness of the Peony Garden's horticultural importance in the state.
- The physical appearance of the building and grounds is welcoming and attractive, and is complimented by visitors.

B. Funding Sources and Expenditures:

1. From **JCMGVA**: None in 2014
2. From the **Sponsoring Organization**: (Hoard Historical Museum)
 - Advertising costs for Thyme to Talk Herbs Seminar and other garden education programs (ads in area newspapers, posters, etc.)
 - Garden budget for plants, shrubs and gardening supplies
 - Museum staff time: Director, Volunteer Coordinator, Operations Assistant, Maintenance Worker
3. **Donations**: None

C. Volunteer Service: (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014)

1. **# of MGVs:**
Leaders: (5) Bev D, Ron L, Christine P, Maggie S, Sue Z = **262.25 hours**
JCMGVA members: (4) Frankie F, Mike H, Diane K, Sharon S = **12 hours**
2. **# Total of MGV hours: 274.25 hours**
3. **# of non-MG garden volunteers: 16 adults with 167 hours**
4. **# Total Adults and/or # of Youth: 25 adults**