

Southeast WI Master Gardeners

SEWMGA had 562 members in 2011, primarily in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, including 111 trained in 2010. A total of 444 members are certified for 2012.



In 2011 we volunteered	2,266	hours in youth education
	14,687	hours in community education
	8,471	hours in support service
and participated in	13,557	hours in continuing education

The SEWMG organization provides horticultural education for the public and for themselves through a great variety of programs, projects, and their gardens, and a bimonthly newsletter written for members. Information was provided to those who attend our educational booths and displays at the Milwaukee Home Show, the Wisconsin State Fair, Waukesha Co. Fair, Milwaukee Co. Fair, and many other venues. In 2011, eleven education programs were offered, as well as two walks at Boerner Botanical Gardens and four educational/informational bus trips.

Major Accomplishments or Projects:

1. *Garden Support Committee.* This committee coordinated a one-day “Veggie Tour” of six MG vegetable gardens to help the public learn more about vegetable gardening. They also organized a Volunteer Opportunity Fair in Spring to highlight over 50 MGV gardens and encouraged participation in these gardens. Twice a year they have a meeting for all garden chairs to explain new policies, procedures, or opportunities and to answer any questions. These meetings also allow networking between chairs to share tips and suggestions.
2. *Annual One-Day Fundraiser.* The yearly Perennial Plant Sale is a collaborative activity that encompasses a six-week effort of digging, dividing, potting, nurturing, and selling the plants. On the day of the sale MGVs have educational displays and answer horticultural questions. In 2011 the weather, differences in advertising, and economic conditions made the plant sale less successful than other years. Next year we plan to be more technically prepared and advertise in other venues. This event supports the MGV projects and gardens that take place across two counties.
3. *Lifelong Gardening Committee.* This committee offer programs and displays to help those with disabilities or special needs to be able to garden. This year their wide variety of lifelong gardening tools, along with other machines or objects which are owned by the SEWMGVs, were inventoried and listed so that other SEWMGVs may borrow and make use of available items.
4. *Endowments, Scholarships, and Monetary Donations.* We have donated money to a scholarship fund at MATC, WCTC, UW Madison, and UW Stevens Point. These scholarships have been given and we have received appreciative acknowledgements from the recipients. Three non-profit agencies also received monetary support.

Highlighted Project: Saturday Educational Programs for MGVs

We had many discussions about generational differences and how not all members are able to participate in weekday activities. In order to include these members, we decided to offer MGV educational opportunities on Saturdays. These programs would be connected to the MGV organization and horticulture, but the main focus would not be specific horticulture education. Three topics were chosen: Leadership development to encourage future leaders for our organization; a horticulture-inspired poetry presentation by a local horticulturist to nurture and inspire growth from within; and a website presentation to assist our membership in negotiating our website and other websites for research-based horticulture information. These presentations were well attended and because these were so well received, we hope to offer more of these programs in 2012.