

Southeast WI Master Gardeners

SEWMGA had over 600 members in 2012, primarily in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, including 124 trained in 2012. A total of 393 members are certified for 2013.



In 2012 we volunteered	2,262	hours in youth education
	15,651	hours in community education
	6,974	hours in support service
and participated in	8,544	hours in continuing education

The SEWMGA sponsors over 50 community and youth gardens in the two counties. Besides sponsorship of community and youth gardens, the SEWMG organization was involved in numerous activities including education booths and displays at the Milwaukee State Fair, the Waukesha Co. Fair and the Milwaukee Home Show. Three public garden tours were presented in Milwaukee and four were presented in Waukesha. Five education programs were offered and attended by nearly 500 MGVs. Bus trips to garden shows, nurseries and botanical gardens were offered to our members as well as garden walks at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Milwaukee.

Major Accomplishments or Projects:

1. *Lifelong Gardening Committee.* This committee presented six programs to garden clubs, employee groups and attendees of community health and wellness fairs. The committee had display booths at the State Fair, the Milwaukee Co. Harvest Fair and the SEWMG Plant Sale and presented a seminar for medical personnel interested in therapeutic horticulture programs. The committee was able to reach over 51,000 people with the message that gardeners with physical challenges can continue to garden and reduce the incidence of injuries by adapting their gardens, tools, plant selection and their gardening techniques.
2. *Education Committee.* This committee was divided into two sub-committees this year to better help the membership with their annual education requirement. The In-House section addressed the need for programs that would reach the diverse interests and schedules of our members. The other sub-committee offered educational outings and bus trips for additional opportunities for our members.
3. *Garden Support Committee.* Support was given to our sponsored gardens by visitations and evaluations by the committee. This committee also organized tours of seven of these local gardens located in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. In March a Garden Forum was presented for all garden chairs as well as a Volunteer Fair was held to acquaint members to the wide variety of volunteer opportunities.

Highlighted Project: Annual SEWMGA Plant Sale

The SEWMGA holds an annual plant sale on the third Saturday of May at the State Fair Grounds in West Allis. Plants are donated by individuals approximately six weeks before the sale and then transported and arranged by name and type at the Fair Grounds the week of the sale. Plant digs (now called pot-a-thons) are held at individual homes where plants are identified, dug, separated, potted and labeled by approximately 10 to 30 MGVs. This year nearly 16,000 perennial plants were offered for sale which came from 55 different donors. The day of the sale nearly 80 members volunteered to help customers locate plants and to answer gardening questions. Educational displays and demonstrations of tools are presented and garden pamphlets are available to the customers. Our eager customers came from all over southeast Wisconsin and purchased nearly all of the plants this year. The proceeds from the sale are used to support SEWMGA garden projects and education programs in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.