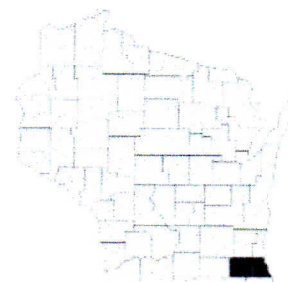


Southeast WI Master Gardeners

SEWMGA had 552 paid members and 393 certified members in 2013, primarily in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. There were 142 students in fall training and 430 members are certified for 2014.

In 2013 we volunteered 3,126 hours in youth education
 14,297 hours in community education
 6,237 hours in support service
and participated in 6,959 hours in continuing education



The mission of the SEWMGA, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, is to support and assist UW-Extension in community horticulture programs through volunteerism, education, and environmental stewardship. SEWMGA provides continuing education opportunities for MGVs with field trips to flower shows, gardens, and nurseries, and presentations by horticulture professionals and experts on a wide variety of topics throughout the year. Our bimonthly newsletter, *Good Earth News*, keeps MGVs updated on both volunteer and education opportunities, and includes university research based horticulture articles

Major Accomplishments or Projects:

1. The annual Plant Sale brought in more than 800 customers to buy a wide variety of perennials, herbs, bulbs, and shrubs. Posters with horticulture information were placed throughout the sale area, and there was a display of enabling tools and information on gardening adaptations for those with physical limitations. Plant Health Advisors and experienced MGVs answered questions, and horticulture publications were available. Unsold plants were donated to Habitat for Humanity.
2. During 2013, SEWMGVs gave 50 presentations on 22 different topics. The most-requested presentations were on perennials and small space, small budget vegetable gardening. Forty-six different organizations requested presentations or displays. MGVs also staffed booths at 5 farmers markets throughout the season, and provided booths and displays at 25 special events.
3. SEWMGA sponsors two gardens in the Family Farm area of the Milwaukee Co. Zoo. The Butterfly Habitat and the Heritage Vegetable Garden — featuring ethnic-themed vegetable beds— are explored by thousands of Zoo visitors each year. MGVs maintain the gardens, and staff them during Zoo special events to answer questions and distribute educational literature.
4. UW-Extension and SEWMGA sponsored the Buds n' Sprouts summer youth gardening program at the DNR's Havenwoods State Forest. Seventy-five children met weekly in small groups for 9 weeks. They planted seeds and vegetable transplants, weeded their vegetable patches, studied composting, and harvested green beans, herbs, and salsa ingredients.

Highlighted Project: LifeLong Gardening

Our LifeLong Gardening project reached more than 65,000 people in 2013 with displays at garden tours, health and wellness fairs, the SEWMGA annual plant sale, Allen Centennial Gardens, Wisconsin State Fair and Milwaukee Co. Fair, and demonstrations and presentations for garden clubs, senior groups, and plant societies. Their presentations and displays are often requested by senior groups and health and wellness fairs. Demonstrations of extended reach and back-saving tools, and hand tools adapted for those with arthritis and weakened grip elicit the most interest.

The project has accumulated nearly 150 gardening implements for use in displays and demonstrations, including a large donation of tools from the UW Hancock Agricultural Research Station in 2009. In subsequent years, MGVs have solicited and received donations from tool manufacturers, garden tool suppliers, and local garden centers. This year a wheelchair accessible portable raised planting bed was donated to the project. It was included in the UW-Extension's State Fair display, along with many vertical gardening ideas. A permanent demonstration garden is in the planning stage.