

2008 MANITOWOC COUNTY UW-EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS VOLUNTEERS ANNUAL REPORT

We currently have fifty-four members in the Manitowoc County U.W.-Extension Master Gardeners organization. This year, twenty-six members were recertified. In addition, five new members were certified.

In 2008, we volunteered: 87 hours in youth education
 37 hours in community education
 1,212 hours in support services
and participated in: 1,143 hours of continuing education

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month, 7 p.m., at the U.W-Extension located at 4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc. From May through August, meetings are held at members' home gardens, local nurseries, or public gardens. At the May and September meetings, a plant exchange is added to the meeting.

Major Accomplishments or Projects

1. The Manitowoc County Master Gardeners have an office at the Manitowoc County U.W.-Extension for a Plant Clinic where members volunteer their time to answer any horticulture questions the public may have. The Clinic is held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from April through October.
2. Volunteers also earn hours by donating their time to non-profit organizations. Currently they plant and weed the gardens at the Chamber of Commerce and the Manitowoc Zoo. They also donate their time at libraries, hospitals, the Historical Village, and at the Woodland Dunes Nature Center butterfly garden.
3. Many of the members have favorite projects. One group cuts the blossoms from the invasive plants along the roadside. Others spend time caring for gardens at churches, schools, and city and village corners.
4. The annual bus trip went to the Madison area to visit the Flower Factory, the Arboretum, and the Olbrich Botanical Gardens. This trip is open to the public.
5. In spring, Manitowoc County Master Gardener's facilitated the Basic Master Gardening Program to 28 students.
6. Richard Zondy of J.W. Jung Seed Co. and John Katalilnich of Yardening by Nature Landscape Design were guest speakers at the Fall Seminar.
7. The 2009 Garden Walk plans are underway. The date is June 27 and the committee has chosen six garden hosts.

Highlighted Project:

The Silver Lake Project received a Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Grant. Manitowoc County U.W.-Extension Master Gardeners hosted the "Tree Planting Seminar" with Mr. Van Ells, a retired Region Urban Forestry Coordinator with the DNR in the Kettle Moraine Area. He presented a powerpoint presentation specific to tree planting procedures and showed a video entitled "Trees From Nursery To Landscape". A tree planting demonstration was given following the lecture, as well as discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of bare root, B and B, and container trees. .

The following week more than 20 varieties of trees were planted at Silver Lake Park.