



PORTAGE COUNTY UW-EXTENSION
&
CENTRAL RIVERS FARMSHED
present
2009 GARDEN WALKS

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M.

Join us for a walk through some of Portage County's private vegetable gardens!

- May 26** Jen Zach, 1375 Bob White Lane, Stevens Point, WI
View a large vegetable garden, small fruits, an orchard with larger trees, too many flower and shrub beds to count—herbs, annuals and perennials. Organic gardening methods were used in Jen's gardens. They also raise chickens for meat and eggs, and this year have two bee hives as well.
- June 16** Jack Renken, 5457 Canary Dr, Plover, WI (Blue Bird Acres)
This garden was designed for people with health conditions that make it hard to keep up a traditional garden. The garden is 34' x 75' with two large 64'L x 4'W x 4'H raised beds.
- June 30** Bernice & Stewart Kepler, 2631 Olson Road, Amherst Junction, WI
(Located halfway between Nelsonville and Iola (approximately 5 miles), just off Highway 161. Traveling east from Nelsonville, turn right on Olson Road; first house on left-hand side of Olson Road.)
This less than half acre fruit and vegetable garden is grown using primarily organic methods (some glyphosate is used). The solids from a neighboring dairy's methane digester are used as a mulch and soil amendment, and they grow cover crops (buckwheat or winter rye) to add organic matter to the soil. They use Surround (kaeolin clay), insect traps, organic sprays and row covers to control insects. They also use sulfur-based fungicides to combat blight problems.
- July 14** Holly Petrillo & John Sheffy, 1241 Maria Drive, Stevens Point, WI
We root for our crops with deep, raised beds; a soil playground for our hands as well as our heads. Mycelium running beneath our feet; free city woodchips can't be beat. Currants, strawberries, apples and pears -- our perennial sweet tooth will always be there. Peppers, squash, tomatoes, and beans -- the annual understory satisfies our greens. With tractors of chickens and volunteer worms, if the rabbits ate mosquitoes, we'd have no concerns. Gutters and rain barrels harness early summer showers, while insects take refuge in our borders of flowers. Growing diversity is certainly a treat; even better to know we are what we eat!
- July 28** Carol Welling, 247 Edgewood Road, Custer, WI
(Hwy 10 East to Custer; turn north on KK. Go about 1 – 2 miles and take a right turn onto Rolling Hills Rd. Go about 1 mile and turn left onto Edgewood Rd. Located ½ mile from the turn on the right side of the road.)
Gardens include a large annual vegetable garden, a smaller perennial garden for raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, asparagus and herbs, fruit trees (apple, pear, cherry and plum), and a small (9' x 12') greenhouse. The vegetable garden uses "seasonal" raised beds with drip irrigation and is protected by a solar-electric deer-turkey-critter fence.

--and—

Sue Anderson, 235 Edgewood Road, Custer, WI

This garden is in its third year with new ground being “claimed” each year. Multiple layers of cardboard are being used to smother the quack grass, knapweed, and smooth brome to turn it into garden space. They use both beds (not raised) and rows and a lot of leaf and hay mulch for weed control. An electric deer fence is used for critter control. Vegetables, fruit trees, fruit bushes and strawberries are included in this garden. A root cellar is also available for touring.

August 11 **Melissa Rice, 736 Union Street, Stevens Point, WI**

View this small urban garden, which includes square foot gardens and perennial/annual borders on the south side and raspberries, strawberries, herbs, and an apple tree. New this year, are a rain barrel and a vermi-composter.

August 25 **Deb Aeby, 1941 Ridgewood Court, Plover, WI**

This garden is comprised of four eight-foot raised beds encircled by a fence and surrounded by perennial beds. They are growing rhubarb, pole beans, spinach, tomatoes, peppers, onions, zucchini, broccoli and herbs. They compost and add this along with shredded leaves to the beds annually. They grow enough to feed their family of four.

September 15 **Jen Zach, 1375 Bob White Lane, Stevens Point, WI**

View a large vegetable garden, small fruits, an orchard with larger trees, too many flower and shrub beds to count—herbs, annuals and perennials. They use organic methods. They also raise chickens for meat and eggs and, this year, they have added two bee hives.