



Rock County  
2006

# Master Gardener Volunteer Program

*Gardening is so much more than pulling weeds.*

**2005-2006**

**Executive Committee**

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- Mike Maddox  
Program advisor

The University of Wisconsin-Extension implemented the Master Gardener Program in Wisconsin in 1980. The purpose of the program is to have trained volunteers help county UW-Extension horticultural staff reach out to a greater number of people who are interested in, or have questions about, gardening than the Extension staff can provide alone.

Any resident of Wisconsin 18 years or older. Potential Master Gardener Volunteers should be interested in horticulture (but a formal degree is not necessary), willing to help people with their horticultural concerns, dependable, unbiased and open-minded, and be willing to provide volunteer service to their community. Although the program is statewide, some counties may choose not to offer the program.

In Rock County, Master Gardener training has been in place since the mid-1990's. Since 2003, local Master Gardener training has consisted of 60 hours of classroom instruction by University personnel including Extension Specialists from the Departments of Horticulture, Plant Pathology and Entomology, horticulture educators, Extension agents and other qualified professionals. Certification is achieved when participants successfully pass the final exam addressing information delivered in class as well as volunteering a minimum of 24-hours of garden-related service to the community.

Individuals who continue in the program from one year to the next must complete 10 hours of continuing education each year along with the volunteer component.

*Annual report summary of activity of the Rock Prairie MG Association.*

	2004	2005	2006
# in program	99 MGs	121 MGs	130 MGs
Hours of Community Service	3365.0	3300.0	5674.0
Hours of Community Education	117.0	293.0	786.0
Hours of Youth Education	27.0	60.5	756.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3509.0</b>	<b>3653.5</b>	<b>7216.5</b>
Hours of Continuing Education	1008	1562.5	1663

## 2005-2006 Class Itinerary

Botany  
 Soil Science  
 Landscape Design  
 Plant Propagation  
 IPM-Insects  
 IPM-Diseases  
 IPM-Weeds  
 PHC-IPM  
 Turf Grass  
 Woody Ornamental  
 Small Fruits  
 Herbaceous Plants  
 Vegetable Gardens  
 Phenology  
 Garden Tours



Training consisted of 60-hours of intense, yet informal, lecture-style classes covering an assortment of material related to horticulture. Class instruction was facilitated by the county horticulture educator.

*"... the Master Gardener program is the best thing I've ever done!"* MGV Mary S.

The volunteerism and continuing education requirement are key aspects of the Master Gardener program which sets it apart from being a "garden club." MGV's must complete a minimum of 10 hours continuing education each year as well as volunteer a minimum of 24-hours.

### Volunteerism

Rotary Gardens	Welty Environmental Center	Angel Museum, Beloit
Rock Haven	Rock County Sherriff's Dept. Garden	Rock Co. Farm
Rock Co. 4-H Fair Grounds	Pelishek Trail-Hood Park	Delavan Arboretum
Parker High School Community Garden	Wisconsin Tree City USA Celebration	Rock Trail Coalition
Shilberg Park, Milton	Traxler Park, Janesville	Janesville Farm Market
Cargill United Methodist	Head Start, Beloit	Edgerton Garden Walk
Janesville Home Garden Tour	Hanchlett/Bartlett Historical Homestead	Renaissance Fair, Janesville
Merrill Park, Beloit	WPT Garden Expo	More...

### Additional MGV Programming / Continuing Education

#### Advanced MGV Training

- Plant Propagation Workshop (6 hours of training, 20 participants)
- Garden Maintenance (16 hours of training, 35 participants)
- The Care of Woody Ornamentals (36 hours of training continuing through August 2007, 20 participants)

#### Garden Symposium

- The Joy of Gardening (6 hours of training, 120 participants)

Regional participation by the horticulture educator (visits if more than one in 2006):

MGV Statewide Training (2)	Winnebago Co. MGV (2)	Fond Du Lac Co MGV (2)
Sauk Co. MGV (3)	Winnebago Co. (IL) MGV	Lee Co. (IL) MGV
Milwaukee Co. MGV (2)	Eau Claire Co. MGV	Green Co. MGV
Dane Co. MGV (4)	Southern District HCE	Blackhawk Tech (2)
Wood Co. MGV	UW-Rock Co.	