

Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association (WCMGA) has 111 members including 4 emeritus members, 68 recertified for 2011 and 10 who became certified this year.



In 2010 we volunteered	979	hours in youth education
	2,366	hours in community education
	5024	hours in support service
and participated in	2,219	hours in continuing education

In January, 2010 our Board of Directors and Advisor held a strategic planning and visioning meeting. As a result, we focused on the recruitment of new and retention of current members by developing a new brochure and formed a new communications committee. The co-chairs of our Education and Control of Invasive Species Project were selected as 2010 Invasive Crusaders by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species and were invited to the State Capital for a special recognition ceremony.

Major Accomplishments or Projects:

1. This year we received two grants from the WIMGA. The \$250 grant enabled 4 first-time Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity homeowners to receive help with a landscape plan, to purchase and plant a tree and receive educational resources for care of their lawn and garden by WCMGA. The \$400 grant was used to help with costs of a featured speaker, Melinda Myers, at our day long educational seminar *Winter Escapes, Summer Dreams* in February. It was attended by 235 people and was a mix of MGVs and the general public. We plan to offering a day-long educational event each year.
2. We awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a Fox Valley Technical College horticulture student in May.
3. The Oshkosh Area Humane Society Memory/Tribute Garden was a new project this year. The goal was to improve the space and create a welcoming meditative garden. The entire space was redesigned utilizing the existing memorial statues as focal points and creating intimate garden rooms with the existing concrete benches. Many new perennials and shrubs were added as well as a rock garden. Gutter was added to an existing shed roof and two rain barrels were installed for use in watering the garden. The Director and Board of the Humane Society were so thrilled with the outcome, they hosted a party and contest to rename the garden. The new name will be revealed in January.
4. Several WCMGA members received training in the *Got Dirt?* Program. This was valuable training and very useful with our two elementary school after school enrichment programs.
5. We hosted bus trips to the Garden Expo in Madison, a buying trip to several Amish greenhouses and a trip to Ball Horticulture Gardens and Cantigny Gardens in Chicago. A small group toured two CSAs and visited a beekeeping operation in the Sheboygan area.

Highlighted Project: The Octagon House, Neenah, WI

The Octagon House, build in the 1850's, is owned and operated by the Neenah Historical Society (NHS). It is open to the public for educational tours. The NHS asked for our help in restoring the landscape to be typical of the late 19th century. Over the past 3 years 10 MGVs have researched and designed an overall plan; built, planted and maintained the kitchen and perennial gardens; planted a shrub border and a rose border; and added many trees. The MGV team also erected a split rail fence for the rose border and began to build a brick raised bed edging the kitchen garden. MGVs participated in the NHS's "Country Fair" held at the Octagon house each October with a booth to showcase the developing gardens and provide education. This year MGVs were asked to judge the Pie Contest. This project has provided a visible presence for WCMGA in the Neenah area and is very much appreciated by the Neenah Historical Society as well as the general public.