

2010 MANITOWOC COUNTY UW-EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS ANNUAL REPORT

The Manitowoc County UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer organization has 44 members. This year, 29 of those members were recertified and 5 were new certified members.

In 2010, we volunteered:	11.5 hours in youth education
	403 hours in community education
	1,587.5 hours in support service
and participated in:	868.5 hours in continuing education

The Master Gardener Volunteers meet every month on the 4th Monday from September through April. We had a speaker at each meeting on a variety of horticulture topics. From May through August, we meet at a member's garden or nursery with a plant exchange and pot-luck picnic in between.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OR PROJECTS:

1. We hosted, with Woodland Dunes, an evening lecture for the public with Evelyn Hadden talking on "Shrinking Your Yard". The room was filled with people learning how to put in gardens in place of their lawns.
2. Our Plant Clinic has an office at the Manitowoc County U.W.-Extension office where horticulture questions are answered for the public. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Voice mail is used to hold calls until a Master Gardener is in the office. Walk-ins are always welcome. This year, as most, tree questions were most numerous, followed by insects, and vegetables.
3. A few of our members teamed up with others and a new group called the "Urban Green Gang" was started up in downtown Manitowoc. The volunteers initiated an Adopt-A-Planter Program that resulted in approximately 40 lovely container gardens placed throughout the downtown district. Local suppliers provided the plants grown in local greenhouses. The Manitowoc County Recycling Center contributed the potting soil and compost. The group made changes for fall and our Master Gardener Volunteers will be asking members for materials for the winter.
4. Master Gardener Volunteers had a booth at the Manitowoc Earth Day Celebration to hand out bags of compost from the Manitowoc Recycling Center to anyone interested. They also had information sheets and answered questions.
5. Members also did special projects singly or in small groups for their church, schools, hospitals, libraries, Woodland Dunes, Chamber of Commerce, and Historical Village. We had a few members give presentations and lectures to area groups.

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT: MANITOWOC ZOO

The year began in early spring with the pulling of Garlic Mustard and the planting of Calla Lilies on the outside of the wood fences. This keeps weeds down and blends in with the hostas and woodland shrubs in front of the cages. One of the members keeps the bulbs for recycling each spring. There is a small flower garden around a gazebo, which we tend. There are roses, perennials, and annuals to care for. Annuals are planted for more year-round color. At the entrance, hostas and grasses are planted. Miscanthus Karl Forester is ideal for this area.

Day Lilies, and a few other perennials, are dug up for the winter to be planted in spring. There is a weekly sign-up sheet for members to take care of whatever needs to be done. Other members are welcome to help whenever they have a few hours of free time. This is an ongoing project and a very big thank you to the chair people for time and energy in keeping everything and everyone informed and on task.