

2013 Fond du Lac Master Gardener Association Accomplishment Report

We currently have 63 certified Master Gardener Volunteers in our association, plus there are 11 people taking Level 1 Training. We meet the second Tuesday of the month from January through May in the morning and from September through November in the evening. Many of our meetings include speakers on a wide variety of horticultural topics.

In 2013 we volunteered:

- 224.5 Hours in Youth Education
- 516 .0 Hours in Community Education
- 4,357.5 Hours of Support Services

Also, we participated in 2,079 hours of Continuing Education in 2013.

Our accomplishments for the year include the following:

On March 23, 2013, we hosted our annual garden seminar “**Day in the Garden**”. This event is designed to offer Master Gardeners Volunteers a continuing education opportunity. The seminar is also open to the public. The seminar featured presentations by Patti Nagai on Houseplants, Noel Valdes on Open Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening, and Janet Macunovich on Continuous Color in the Garden. The day included a silent auction, as well as a raffle and vendors. We had over one hundred people in attendance. Beth Howman-Combs was the Chair Person for this event and Alice Dann was the Chair for the Silent Auction. Many of our members were involved to make this event a huge success. We look forward to our 2014 Day in the Garden on March 1st.

Our **Horticulture Helpline** at the UW Extension office provided science based answers to phone and email questions from the public. Questions related primarily to the wet and cold spring and hot and dry summer. There were many complaints of tree damage from the stress of last year’s drought as well as deer and rodent damage from the deep snow over the long winter. We had volunteers available to answer questions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from mid April through mid October. The Helpline was organized by Lin Morgan. Team members were Sally Boatman, Ellen Flynn, Sherry Freiberg, Sue Jones, Anna Toman, Hal Barfknecht, Dolores Braun and Tina Weiss. In addition, we were on the radio Saturday mornings answering phone calls from the public on the Landscape Smart program. Patty Percy and Dolores Braun were the primary Master Gardener Volunteer participants.

The Fond du Lac County Wellness committee invited our association to participate in their **Health/Wellness Fair**, the theme of which was “Planting the Seeds to Grow Good Health”. Our members put together materials on a variety of garden herbs used for healing, started seeds for micro greens, and set up raised garden models for our booth. We answered many questions from the attendees and provided Garden Supply magazines and other handouts. Eileen Blackburn was the project leader; Dolores Braun, Gary McCaughtry, Cindy Boudry, Ellen Flynn and Lin Morgan were team members.

The purpose of the **Junior Master Gardeners** is to help kids learn how to plant, grow, care for, harvest and eat fresh produce they have grown. Many of these low income kids have never tasted fresh produce. We have a kitchen classroom where they clean and prepare the veggies and then eat them in

a salad or cooked. The kids were very happy with how well their garden did this year and our field trip was fun. We kept it local and traveled to Free Spirit Gardens and Produce with a Purpose Farm. After stopping for lunch, we took the kids to Kelly's Ice Cream and gave them a treat. These are all kids from Boys and Girls Club, so they appreciate the opportunities JMG gives them. We were able to take them to the Nursing Home to deliver flowers for their center pieces. Another community service project they all participated in was delivering the extra produce to the local food pantries. There were several trips made to the Solutions Center and the residents very much appreciated the fresh produce. Patty Percy is the Lead person for this project and Sally Boatman and Jo Heinkel are team members.

Janet Tess and Gail Williams organized three **bus trips** which were available to both Master Gardener Volunteers and the general public. On Nov. 30, 2012, we went to Green Bay Botanical Gardens for their 16th Annual WPS Garden of Lights. On May 9, 2013 we went on a shopping trip for gardeners to five nurseries. We completely filled the bottom of the bus and the few empty seats with our purchases on that trip. Then on Aug. 6, 2013 we went to Boerner Botanical Gardens and to the Ten Chimneys Estate. The trips were educational and fun. We look forward to seeing what they plan for 2014.

Dolores Braun, Ken Campshure, John Halle, Jim Johnson and Doug Kindschuh were our **Plant Sale** coordinators for 2013, plus almost all of our members helped with the effort. Due to the late spring, we weren't able to supply as many perennials as usual. Haentze Floral was a sponsor and we had many beautiful annuals. We made a \$4200 profit which helps to support our community projects. The 2014 Plant Sale will be at a new site – the Fond du Lac Fairgrounds Cow Palace on May 16 and 17. We have already potted up hundreds of hardy perennials and put them in holding beds for this sale.

We were contacted by the Fond du Lac Public Library requesting our assistance in organizing a fall **Plant Swap/Sale** to benefit the library. We accepted the challenge in June and began the planning. The day of the event, September 14, was a beautiful day and there was a good response from the community. Many people had questions and took some literature that we had available, and customers left with new plants and big smiles. This was an excellent public relations event. The coordinators for this event were Eileen Blackburn and Patty Percy.

Flower Beds at UW: The largest flower bed on campus is the Sunset Garden which is maintained by Pat Birschbach, Mary Ditter, Sue Furness, Jim Johnson and Vel Hynek. They bought knockout roses, purple cone flowers, annuals and grasses for their garden in 2013, plus they installed large stones. Dolores Mick and Jane Ketterer have been in charge of the on-going care of Shady Rest and Crane's Nest gardens. They have revamped sections of the Crane's Nest and installed self-watering pots at the Shady Rest. The Pond View Art Garden and Pond View Rain Garden are maintained by Lin Morgan. A Master Gardener Memorial Bench will be added to the Art Garden. Lin reports that we have received many compliments from staff as they walk to the main building and she has further plans for improving the gardens. Janet Tess and Gail Williams continue to maintain the Down Under Shade Garden by planting annuals and perennials. This is at the entrance to UW Campus. It provides color, interest and beauty for all who enter the campus. Lane Chapman maintains and updates three gardens, including UW Courtyard Garden. This year she planted penstemon, hosta, iris, sedum, peonies and spring bulbs and spread three loads of wood bark. Dolores Mick has been working on making identification signs for the plants in all the UW gardens for educational purposes.

A committee headed by Julie Toshner and including Alice Dann, Vel Hynek and Ken Campshure continued their relationship with the **Fond du Lac Public Library** to assist with improvements to the

outdoor planting areas and work with their staff in defining goals for the year. They cleaned up beds at the main entrance in spring and continued with seasonal plantings in the planters. They added new succulents to the area outside the Children's Library, planted replacement grasses which were provided by Haentze's at no cost, installed a bulletin board to advertise Day in the Garden, and shopped for and purchased new planters for next year (paid for by the library). They did some clean-up on the north side but due to construction on Sheboygan Street for the new THELMA Art Center, they weren't able to work on the beds near the north entrance. This area will be spruced up next year with planters and shade tolerant plantings near the doorway.

The **Community Gardens**, which Patty Percy runs for the county and UW-Extension, is an ongoing project. She takes care of the plot rentals and grant writing each year. This project is very beneficial for the community as it serves about one hundred families every year who have no other place to be able to grow their own fresh garden produce. She applied for and received a grant last summer toward putting in a new water line to the middle water tank. She is assisted with the Community Garden project by Terry Sterr, Lynette Liepert and Doug Kindschuh who mentor new gardeners and answer questions. At the end of the growing season, our volunteers help to clean up the gardens and take any vegetables we find to one of the food pantries.

Brenda Hill and Pat Wiedmeyer assisted the Eagle Scouts in establishing a **Butterfly Garden at Columbus Park in Campbellsport**. They helped to clear overgrown brush, stabilize the river shoreline, extend the walking path, and instead of replanting the rest with grass seed, they created a Butterfly Garden. They will continue to weed and add more plant varieties and bulbs to create year-round interest. They have recruited some youth volunteers to help and learn while accumulating volunteer hours.

One of our main projects each year is at **Free Spirit Riders**. The project members are Pat Birschbach, Kathy Erickson, Renee Bruins, Mary Fillion-Zuesldorf, Jo Heinkel, Larry Lamont, Maggie Meyer, Kari Jacobson and Cindy Boudry. They have some raised beds as well as some at ground level and gravel paths. They plant in spring, weed all season, water as needed, trim trees and shrubs, spray weeds, mulch, turn compost, etc. This year they also started a rain water collection system for the garden. In 2014 they will be in the Agnesian Garden Walk.

The **Fond du Lac Lutheran Home** requested assistance in spring of 2013 with their inner courtyard which is viewed by residents from four stories on all sides. There is a raised bed in the center which we planted with cannas, gladioli's, dahlias and petunias. We also planted petunias in hanging pots, added hydrangeas, hibiscus, Russian sage, heucheras and lamium, plus pruned bushes, weeded, added weed block and mulch, and watered. They were very happy with the results. This fall we filled the raised bed with perennials for color all summer and to make the garden more self-sustaining. All plants were purchased by the Lutheran Home. The project leaders are Ellen Flynn and Jane Ketterer, plus Susan George, Sharon Rasmussen and Dolores Mick helped out.

We gave seven \$25 cash awards for kids exhibiting at the **Fond du Lac County Fair**. Patty Percy is the project coordinator.

Lin Morgan is the Chair of our **MG Scholarship Committee**. Team members are David Demezas, George Armstrong, Linda Armstrong, Mike Rankin, and Tina Weiss. The purpose of this committee is to promote, accept, evaluate and grant scholarships to secondary students in the fields of horticulture,

botany and related studies. They awarded one scholarship in 2013 to a student at UW-FDL studying botany and general studies, with a career goal to own a Garden and Nursery business. Future plans are to expand the promotion of the scholarship to all schools in Fond du Lac County.

Pier Elementary School has a five hundred square foot courtyard and a medium size berm in front of the school. The berm has been planted with all the spring bulbs you can imagine, plus sedum, day lilies, daisies, coneflowers, asters, and more. The courtyard remains an attraction including spring bulbs, azaleas, and annuals. The eye-spy feature interactive game draws all the children in. They then become interested in all that grows within its walls. This garden brings much joy to all that see it, and exposes children to a very special garden inside the school. Eileen Blackburn is in charge of this project.

The **Children's Museum of Fond du Lac** had its grand re-opening in August. Prior to that, they contacted Dolores Braun for assistance in planning the new 10,000 square foot outdoor space to include several interactive experiences for children, including raised beds and container gardening. Three members of the Children's Museum Board came to our October meeting to show us the amazing results of this project and how Dolores assisted with their new gardens, plus to ask for more volunteer assistance in the future.

The **School Gardens** are always a great Master Gardener project. The **Rosenow School garden** project leader is Sharon Rasmussen and team members are Mary Williams and Bill Behnke. In 2013 they continued to improve the garden by increasing the size of their growing station. They planted marigold seeds which the students collected in 2012, using the plants for Mothers Day gifts. They added a trellis for small pumpkin varieties. Parents and students continue to do a great job of taking care of the garden. The **Sabish School garden** project leaders are Cindy Boudry and Dee Oelke. The project started late spring when dirt was brought in to fill an area where portable classrooms had been. Then compost was added. They taught students square foot gardening in May, and when the area got dry in June, summer school students planted. Dee Oelke would like to use the veggies in her cooking classes. Herbs were also planted for this purpose. **Riverside School** has two gardens – the main garden had Indian corn, popping corn, tomatoes, beets, carrots, lettuce, spinach, cukes, climbing beans, and many herbs; the second garden had pumpkins and squash. Bill Behnke, Anna Toman, Gary McCaughtry and others are the project leaders. The **Chegwin Nature Center** children's school garden leaders are Anna Toman and Bill Behnke. They have a vegetable garden, butterfly garden, native woodland, outdoor classroom, prairie-in-renovation, and did indoor seeding with the students.

Several of our members – Sherry Freiberg, Christine Dorsch, Eileen Blackburn, Larry Conrad, Patty Percy, and Sue Furness – gave us tours of their home gardens this year which was an inspiration and learning experience to all of us who were able to attend.

Lynette Liepert had a MGV information tent and plant sale at **Prairie Fest**. She answered gardening questions, handed out horticulture information, sold plants and produce with the proceeds going to our association.

The **Fond du Lac Senior Center Garden** is directly in front of the building main entrance, providing beauty to those visiting. Even though it is mainly a beautification project, many times people will stop and ask questions while project leaders, Marilyn Faris and Diane Soffa, are working on the beds. All plants are perennials providing different bloom times.