

## MASTER GARDENER ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FOR 2017

### SUCCESS STORIES:

#### Creating A Special Habitat for Pollinators and the Community

Master Gardeners have been planting and maintaining native flower gardens along the Riverwalk for the City of De Pere. This year the project received certification as a Monarch Waystation Habitat by Monarch Watch, an organization organized by the entomology program at the University of Kansas. Monarch Waystations are places that provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. This project not only provides support to native pollinators but provides education to the public on a wide variety of native plants while beautifying a recreational area. In July, 44 Master Gardeners attended a tour of the garden hosted by the project volunteers.

#### Growing Nutritious Foods for a Food Pantry

The St Mark's Garden Project in De Pere is an organically grown garden providing fresh foods for the church's community food pantry. This included 23 different vegetables and 8 varieties of herbs. In addition to providing 271 pounds of produce for the pantry, Master Gardeners use the garden to educate pantry patrons and provide information about the planting and harvesting of each type of vegetable.

#### Ensuring Nutrition for the Elderly

The Master Gardener project at the Brown County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) in downtown Green Bay provided another year of supplying fresh produce to the nutrition mission of the organization. The 2017 garden was successful in providing over 70 lbs. of cucumbers, 43 lbs. of tomatoes, 12 lbs. of peppers, and 7 lbs. of green beans during the season. Fresh peas, green onions, carrots, lettuce, kale, fresh herbs, and summer squash were also enjoyed by the participants in the ADRC meals program.

#### Educating Youth About Gardening and Nutrition

The Master Gardener Project at the YMCA in Howard gets children involved in garden upkeep, pest and weed control, and harvesting produce. The staff of the YMCA uses all the produce to develop healthy snacks and meals during summer activities. Master Gardener volunteers are available during the summers to help guide the children in their gardening. In past years after the summer programs ended and children returned to school, the children didn't have opportunities to experience the harvest of some of the produce. This year one of the project's

Master Gardeners began teaching a one hour class per week on a variety of garden/plant topics to the children in the YMCA's After School Program for 5 weeks. Many of these children were also involved in the garden during the summer. We are now able to keep up the garden longer and allow participating children to harvest produce longer.

#### DISCUSSION OF HOW MG'S CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD SECURITY:

There are two Master Gardener projects that directly provide produce for community food pantries. The project at St Mark Lutheran Church supplies foods for that church's community pantry and the project at St Philip Catholic Church supplies foods for St Bernard Church's pantry. This past year the two projects provided approximately 600 pounds of fresh and nutritious produce for the two food pantries.

#### DISCUSSION OF HOW MG'S ARE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT:

For the past several years, Master Gardeners have been designing, planting, and maintaining native plants along the Riverwalk of the city of De Pere. This year, the project has been designated an official Monarch Waystation by monarchwatch.org, an organization organized by the entomology program at the University of Kansas. This Master Gardener project is now on a national online registry of monarch-friendly habitats because it provides both nectar and larval host plants for the monarch's survival on their trip to Mexico at the end of summer. To help people recreate some of the same natural habitat in their own surroundings, Master Gardeners also developed a handbook of the plant varieties used with information on their cultivation.

Master Gardeners staffing at the diagnostic office provide regular consultation and educational information on various environmental based topics such as invasive species management and best management landscape practices including IPM. Approximately 2,000 consumers benefited from the diagnostic consultations.

#### DISCUSSION OF HOW MG'S ARE ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN COMMUNITIES:

Most of the Master Gardener projects are gardens open to the public and enhance the sites at which they are located. The Green Bay Botanical Garden is host to the Master Gardeners Small Space Gardening Project as one of their exhibits. At this project, visitors to the Botanical Garden can also see how they can incorporate a variety of containers (straw bales, pallets, pots, raised beds, bags of soil, wheelchair accessible tables, etc.) for their vegetables or flowers. Master

Gardeners also staff the garden project on some of the Botanical Garden's special events and free admission days to be available as a gardening resource for the over 7,500 visitors during these events and free days.

#### DISCUSSION OF YOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS:

Most of the projects have an education component, but this year our Master Gardeners staffed a booth at one of Green Bay's Farmers' Markets. Since this was a new venture, this service to the community was only done once per month (May – September) at the weekly Wednesday evening farmer's market. During the four days our booth was available (On one scheduled date the farmer's market was cancelled due to severe weather.), Master Gardeners provided horticulture/gardening information to many consumers. Questions ranged from basic gardening questions of new gardeners to asking for advice on control of garden insects and disease. In addition to making more people aware of the Master Gardener Program and the horticulture services of the UW-Extension, it helped educate the community about the UW-Extension's move to a new location this past spring.

#### DISCUSSION OF YOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN:

The Master Gardener project at Heritage Hill State Park provides gardening training for a limited number of home-schooled youth, but the projects with the YMCA have the largest impacts. It starts with the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day in May of each year. At this event that served nearly 750 children this year, Master Gardeners taught children about plants they and their family could grow at home and helped the children plant lettuce seeds in a paper cup to take home. During the summer months, Master Gardener volunteers worked directly with approximately 30 youth in the summer program of the YMCA in Howard to teach them about gardening. This year, the project continued after the summer program by offering training opportunities to youth attending the YMCA's after school program.

#### DISCUSSION OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES FOR TARGETED OR UNDER SERVED POPULATIONS:

Both the project at the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and the Small Space Gardening project at the Green Bay Botanical Garden demonstrate gardening methods for elderly or people with disabilities. There are raised beds made from several types of materials at both projects. The Small Space Gardening project also has a planting table that is constructed to allow a person in a wheelchair to easily reach the planting area.