



The Master Gardener Program in Dunn County started in 2010. Over 75 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 17 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2017. The UW-Extension Educator facilitating the MG Program is Agriculture Agent Katie Wantoch.

**MGVs Assist with Local Garden Tour**

MGVs partnered with Stepping Stones of Dunn County, a local community services organization, to present a garden tour which raised over \$23,000 to support the food pantry, homeless shelters, and other programs coordinated by Stepping Stones. Two MGVs opened up their gardens to host approximately 260 attendees of the tour while several other MGVs donated their talents in various capacities to showcase five local gardens.

**Students Learn About Gardening**

With instruction and supervision by MGVs, third grade classes at Wakanda Elementary planted their school garden in the spring (with plants donated by Baldwin Greenhouse) and got to enjoy lettuce salads before the end of school! The garden raised grape tomatoes, onions, potatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and more, with some donated to the Menomonie Food Pantry. In the fall, spaghetti made from produce grown in the school garden was served at the PTO Kick Off in September.

**Monthly Sessions Provide Continuing Education**

MGVs are continually learning and being kept up-to-date about issues relating to gardening in order to better serve their clients and provide education in their communities. Each monthly meeting begins with a presentation that is also open to guests from the community. For example, in January, a registered dietitian discussed the nutritive value of food grown in gardens. In March a naturalist at Beaver Creek Reserve presented foraging and explained how edible plants are identified, collected and prepared. April brought a speaker on invasive species.

**The Master Gardener Program in Dunn County**

Dunn County UWEX Office  
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 Menomonie, WI 54751  
 dunn.uwex.edu

**Volunteer Service in 2016**

Youth Ed	24 hours
Adult Ed	169 hours
Support	608 hours
Total	802 hours
Value*	\$18,029

Since 2010: 7,353 hours at a value of over \$146,120

\* using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$22.48 per hour, from Independent Sector. Cumulative value based on previous annual estimates.



**Where you can find activities by MGVs in Dunn Co.**

- Dunn County Jail Garden
- Menomonie Community Garden
- Wakanda Elementary School Garden
- Stepping Stones Annual Garden Tour
- Assist with MGV Training
- Dunn Co. Vets Memorial Flower Garden
- UWEX Family Night at local schools
- Annual *Spring Begins!* seminar

