DATE: 5 December 2014

TO: UW-Extension Agents / Educators involved with the MG Program

FROM: Mike Maddox, MG Program Director & Susan Mahr, MG Program Coordinator

RE: 2014 Annual Accomplishment Report

Enclosed is the 2014 Annual Accomplishment Report of the Master Gardener Program in Wisconsin compiled by MG Program Coordinator Susan Mahr. This report is being sent to each local Master Gardener (MG) association affiliated with the WIMGA, to Extension agents throughout the state, and to selected administrators. A summary of the report has also been posted on the MG website and the complete report can be downloaded as a pdf file from there (http://wimastergardener.org/?q=Accomplishments).

This report documents the statewide activities of the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA), the Master Gardener Program Office, and the activities of UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers throughout the state. It also focuses on the various ways MGVs partner with UW-Extension in a brief executive summary, provides statistical information on MG volunteer hours reported in Wisconsin, and includes one-page narrative reports submitted by 48 of the 53 WIMGA-affiliated local associations. You should be proud of your MGVs who have contributed so much and have done an excellent job of reporting on their activities and achievements.

We hope that this report will offer some insight into the activities of other counties’ associations that you might not be aware of, and may inspire collaboration and sharing of ideas amongst agents and associations. Please let either of us know if you have any comments about the report.

We are starting to plan for next year’s report, to change it to better align with UWEX’s educational priorities, include educator’s efforts, and dovetail with the UWEX Reporting Results System. We will be reporting by county and UW-Extension educators will be invited to participate in the report preparation instead of having only MGAs responsible for submission. So watch for more information on this opportunity in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Mike Maddox
Master Gardener Program Director

Susan E. Rice Mahr
Master Gardener Program Coordinator
Master Gardeners of the North

Master Gardeners of the North (Oneida County and neighboring counties) had 58 members with 30 certified for 2015 and 8 in training in fall 2014. In 2014 we volunteered 51 hours in youth education 61 hours in community education 2,185 hours in support service and participated in 679 hours in continuing education.

Our organization continues our commitment to monthly educational meetings and seasonal garden tours. We also support the following volunteer projects: Downtown Baskets, Courthouse garden, Hospital Garden, the Rhinelander Area Community Garden, and other smaller projects throughout the Northwoods.

Major Accomplishments or Projects:
1. In February we sponsored a Community Education opportunity featuring author and naturalist John Bates speaking on bird habitats focusing on aquatic and wetland habitats so abundant in the Northwoods.
2. In March, in conjunction with the YMCA Healthy Kids Program, the Master Gardeners of the North planted lettuce seeds in a hands-on project for the children in attendance. The kids were able to plant their seeds, learn how to care for them and then take them home.
3. In the spring, in conjunction with the Oneida County Beekeepers, the Master Gardeners of the North planted twenty basswood trees in several areas of Rhinelander. Basswoods were chosen as they provide significant amounts of nectar for bees.
4. Our June monthly meeting centered on a hands-on project of leaf castings. Members worked with rhubarb leaves to create one of a kind works of art for the garden.

Highlighted Project: Walking Garden Tour

In July, in conjunction with Ministry Hospice, the Master Gardeners of the North planned and held a Walking Garden Tour of beautiful gardens in the historic Courthouse area of Rhinelander. In less than a two-mile walk, participants were able to view six pre-selected gardens including urban vegetable gardens, a children’s garden (with kids as tour guides), and formal and casual gardens. We visited several MGV projects and gardens. Each garden had two MGV tour guides who answered questions and engaged the public about the joys of gardening. We raised $3000 from this event that went entirely to Ministry Hospice to help with items provided for patients’ end of life care.