

# Volunteer Program



<sup>UW</sup>  
***Extension***  
Cooperative Extension

Manitowoc County

# Mission

- | Our purpose is to improve the quality of life in Manitowoc County by serving as an educational resource dedicated to assisting people in making informed decisions through the facilitation of research-based knowledge.

# Overview

- | This national program was introduced in Wisconsin in 1977.
- | The Master Gardener Volunteer Basic Training Class began in Manitowoc County in September 1994 with 31 people participating
- | The Manitowoc County Master Gardeners Association was formed in January 1995.
- | The goal of the program is to educate and encourage volunteers to help the public with their horticulture inquiries.

# Benefits of the Program

- | New Interests
- | New Skills
- | Opportunities
- | Friendship and Fellowship
- | Leadership
- | Education

# Who Can Join?

- | Any individual 18 or older
- | No previous experience or training is necessary

## To Become Certified one must

- | Attend a designated training session
- | Pass a final exam
- | Fulfill a volunteer commitment to your community
- | Pay annual dues
- | Pass a mandatory criminal background check

# Involvement in Manitowoc County

- | Plant clinics
- | Educational programs
- | Regular meetings
- | Helping UW-Extension personnel
- | Manitowoc Lincoln Park Zoo Gardens
- | Urban Green Gang
- | Woodland Dunes Butterfly Garden
- | Riverview Outdoor Learning Center
- | Garden Talk/Garden Walk
- | Expo – Gardens
- | Mariners Trail
- | and Much More!

# Plant Clinic

- | Available to all Manitowoc County residents
- | Call in questions and leave a message
- | Master Gardeners are there to research information and respond to the callers
- | Phone Number is 920-683-4909



# Regular Meetings

- | Usually the fourth Monday of the month
- | Winter we have speakers on various gardening topics
- | Summer we tour member's gardens, gardening facilities, and parks within the county

# Member Presentations

- One month a member gave a presentation on Thrifty Garden Decorating Ideas

Thrifty Garden Decorating Ideas  
Reduce Reuse Recycle Repurpose



# Garden Walk

- | 2011: 9 gardens throughout Manitowoc County
- | 2013: 10 gardens in Manitowoc were featured
- | 2015: Two Rivers and Mishicot were featured
- | 2017: 7 gardens in Manitowoc were featured



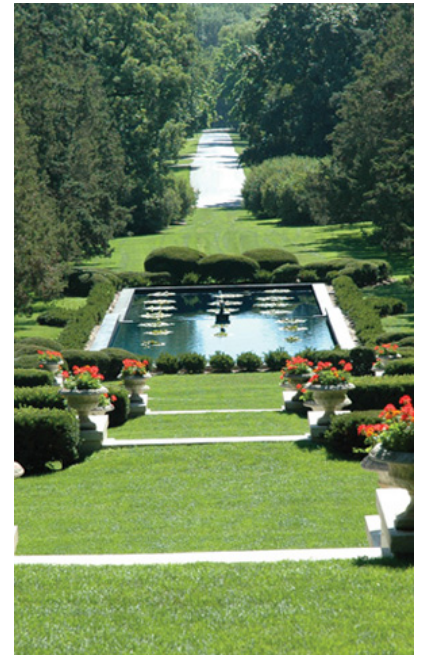
# Garden Walk

- | Garden Walk is the main fundraiser for the Manitowoc County Master Gardeners and roughly 400 people tour the gardens on a Saturday in July



# Bus Trips

- | 2009: Garden Expo in Madison
- | 2010: Olbrich Gardens, Allen Centennial Gardens, UW-Madison Arboretum and Flower Factory in Stoughton
- | 2011: Ball Seed Company and Cantigny Park on the Robert McCormick' estate
- | Chicago Botanical Gardens
- | 2016: Christopher Farms, Sheboygan



Cantigny Park  
Cantigny was Col. Robert R. McCormick's gift to the community and it is yours to discover.



# Mad Dog and Merrill

- In August 2011 Mad Dog and Merrill gave a demonstration on preparing home grown produce on the grill



# Renegade Gardener

- Don Engebretson gave a presentation on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 to a sold out crowd at the UW-EX Office in Manitowoc



# Garden Talk – March 10, 2018 at UW-Manitowoc

- | Garden Talk
- | *Gardening Simplified* and *The Budget-Wise Gardener* presented by Kerry Ann Mendez





# For more information

- | Contact any Master Gardener Volunteer or your Manitowoc County UW-Extension office at 920-683-4168 or 920-683-4169
  
- | Master Gardeners Executive Board
  - President – Linda Brandel, (920) 684-9190
  - Vice President – Carol Lallensack, (920) 682-2311
  - Secretary – Renee Lemberger, (920) 732-3365
  - Treasurer – Marilyn Starzewski, (920) 901-9674

# Contact & Location



- | Manitowoc County Office Complex  
4319 Expo Drive  
Manitowoc, WI 54220
- | (920) 683-4909 Master Gardeners
- | (920) 683-4168 UW-Extension
- | [MasterGardener@co.manitowoc.wi.us](mailto:MasterGardener@co.manitowoc.wi.us)
- | <http://manitowoc.uwex.edu/horticulture/master-gardener-volunteer-program/>
- | <https://www.facebook.com/ManitowocCountyMasterGardeners>