



# WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY



*In 2018, Crawford County Master Gardener Volunteers reported 3,435 hours of community service, worth a value of over \$82,452.\**

\*Using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$24.69 per hour from Independent Sector (independentsector.org).



The Master Gardener Program in Crawford County started in 2000. Over 98 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 23 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2019.

## Where you can find activities by MGVs in Crawford County

- Boscobel School Forest & Garden
- Villa Louis flower beds
- Blackhawk Avenue flower pots
- St. Patrick's Day Parade, Prairie du Chien
- Memorial Gardens, St. Feriole Island
- Ask a Master Gardener
- Crawford County Fair
- *Spring It On*, North Crawford School

## FEATURED PROJECTS

### Engage community with mobile garden

Crawford County Master Gardener Volunteers created colorful flower pots to move around town for community engagement. For 2018, each pot was assigned a color theme and provided with an informational sign about the plants and how they can impact personal well-being, such as mood. The mobile garden was first displayed at the county fair and then moved to the Crawford County Administration Building. "The public enjoyed the color and beauty and learned how color can make a difference to a state of mind," said one MGV.

"This made the community aware of the plight of the monarchs and what little is needed to help them."

—Master Gardener Volunteer



### Introduce monarch butterflies to the community

MGVs raised public awareness on pollinator habitat preservation by rearing and releasing over 1,300 Monarch butterflies this year. MGVs provided education with a display booth at the Crawford County Fair, including a monarch release for the fair visitors.

### Promote childhood literacy in garden program

Twice a month during the summer, MGVs engaged youth in a literacy program at the St. Feriole Memorial Gardens. This year, a total of 140 children, 3 young adults, and 54 adults participated in moving through the garden and reading enlarged, laminated pages from various popular children's books. A MGV walked the groups from the beginning of the book to the end through the garden, visiting each station. At each station the kids were encouraged to read the page aloud. "This is a terrific way to get kids into the garden and to get them to read," said a parent. Each session is also paired with a lesson and garden activity that complimentary to the book's theme.

### Raise money to support garden projects

MGVs sold plants at the Prairie du Chien Farmers' Market to raise money to support community gardening projects. MGV's presence at the market also benefited nearby vendors. "Are you going to come here again? You really beefed up the traffic for us," said a meat vendor at the market.



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Wisconsin counties cooperating.

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