

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING COMPLETED

Spoooner, Wisconsin June 2018. A group of gardening enthusiasts have completed a three-month course through the University of Wisconsin Extension to become Master Gardener Volunteers. The graduates represent communities in Washburn, Polk and Barron Counties.

According to Kevin Schoessow, UW-Extension Area Agriculture Development Educator, "The new Master Gardener Volunteers will assist UW-Extension in delivering programs that address community needs related to horticulture and gardening such as, increasing food security through gardening, assisting school garden programs to promote science awareness and nutrition in kids, or facilitating gardening projects at schools, libraries, and other public and tribal community sites."

The new Master Gardener Volunteer trainees rated their experience as very favorable with comments such as: "Learned so much. I already used my knowledge on plants I have at home, I'd like to get out, learn more and share. What sticks out is the new resources and places to visit that I was unaware of before. Thank you so much for this incredible experience-I'm excited to be part of the group." Their confidence level on gardening subjects went from no/low confidence to moderate/high confidence almost uniformly.

A certified UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer participant completes 36 hours of initial training, passes a final exam, and completes a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service each year.

The training was held Tuesday evenings at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station and involved a different horticulture subject each week such as: Annual, Perennial and Native Plants, Fruits and Vegetables, Weeds, Wildlife, Soils, Insects, and Plant Diseases. Participants learned from a wide range of instructors from University of Wisconsin, UW-Extension, Master Gardener Volunteers, local experts and through on-line materials.

Planning for a new training program will start soon for next year. If you are interested in learning about more about gardening and joining the Master Gardener Volunteer program, please contact the UW-Extension Area office located at the Spooner Agriculture Station to be added to the contact list.

The UW-Extension and Master Gardener Volunteers from Burnett, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties sponsor the Master Gardening Volunteer Training. For more information, visit www.northcountrymgv.org/training or contact Kevin Schoessow, Area Ag Development Educator at 715-635-3506, toll free 800-528-1914, or by e-mail at kevin.schoessow@ces.uwex.edu. Or contact Sue Reinardy, UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, 715-462-3361 or sreinardy@centurytel.net.



Trainees take a moment at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station Teaching and Display Garden after a hands-on session about Vegetables and Organic Gardening. Pictured front row left to right: Amanda Kupsch, Rita Eiche, Lennette Sveinsson-Duh, Cheryl Pippin; back row left to right: Lynn Ford, Rio Sokup, and Gail Sengbusch. (Not shown: Sabrina Brown, Naomi Fogelberg, Joanna Bernat.) *Photo Credit: Sue Reinardy, UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer from Hayward.*



Dr. Brian Smith (UW-River Falls, Professor of Horticulture) and Linda Degner (Bashaw Valley Farm & Greenhouse) provide a lesson on growing blueberries. *Photo by Sue Reinardy: UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, Hayward.*

Additional information:

Washburn County: In Washburn County there are eight Master Gardener Volunteer Interns who have completed the course. They are Sabrina Brown (Spooner), Rita Eiche (Shell Lake), Naomi Fogelberg (Shell Lake), Lynn Ford (Spooner), Amanda Kupsch (Trego), Cheryl Pippin (Spooner), Gail Sengbusch (Springbrook), and Lennette Sveinsson-Duh (Hayward).

Polk County: In Polk County Joanna Bernat (Balsam Lake) completed the Master Gardener Volunteer training.

Barron County: In Barron County Rio Sokup (Rice Lake) completed the Master Gardener Volunteer training.

“A Volunteers Time is the True Example of Selfless Giving” JRC

Kevin Schoessow
University of Wisconsin Extension Area Agriculture Development Educator
Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn Counties

Providing University-based research and information and community networking opportunities for people of Northwestern Wisconsin in the areas of agriculture, horticulture and natural resources.

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