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UW-Extension Master Gardeners Earn Certification

Thirty-seven Green County area residents were recently recognized for earning their Master Gardener Certification at the recent annual meeting of the Green County Master Gardeners Association. The main functions of the group are to serve the needs of all horticulturists in the Green County area, provide continuing education for its members, provide community services through volunteer activities, exchange gardening ideas, promote responsible and sound gardening practices and to provide a link between the community and UW-Extension.

To earn the UW-Extension Master Gardener Certification participants are required to complete 36 hours of classroom training. They must also complete at least 24 hours of community service before receiving their UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Certification. Recertification is required annually and to retain their certification, Master Gardeners must participate a minimum of 10 hours of educational development in addition to providing 24 hours of volunteer service each year.

The South Central Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association was formed in Green County in 2004 to provide Master Gardeners with opportunities for professional development and community service. Over 135 people have been trained since that time. This past year members of the association volunteered 191 hours of community education and 1841 hours in community service projects throughout Green County. A few examples of their community involvement include working with the Swiss Historical Village Museum to establish a prairie planting, designing and planting a new garden at the Monroe Welcome Center and providing square foot gardens for students in the New Glarus Schools.

Master Gardener Volunteers were honored for achieving various levels of volunteer service. Marilyn Sandin-Ross was recognized for providing 150 hours of community service. Sally Bear, Jayne Butts, Mary Jackson Ann Marie Ott and Rae Wellnitz were recognized for 250 hours of volunteer service. Eugene Gessler and Gregg Smith were recognized for achieving 500 hours and Michael Davis was honored for achieving 1,000 hours of community service.

The South Central Master Gardeners Association meets on the fourth Thursday of the month from February through October. Association officers for 2017 will include, Marilyn Sandin-Ross, President; Rae Wellnitz, Vice President; Kristi Leonard, Secretary; Lynn Lokken, Treasurer and Mary Jackson as Past President.

UW-Extension in Green County will be offering Master Gardener Certification Classes starting on February 21st and running through April 25 in 2017. For more details on the classes go to the UW-Extension Green County Master Gardener website at <http://green.uwex.edu/horticulture/gcmga/> Anyone interested in horticulture and gardening is welcome to join the association. Annual Dues are \$10. For more information on the UW-Extension Master Gardener program contact Mark Mayer, UW-Extension Agriculture Agent at 608-328-9440.

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Photo of UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers attached.

Front Row/L-R: Susan Anderson, Cindy Palombi, Tanna McKeon, Tammy Schulte, Norma Bader, Lois Baker, and Theresa Colney.

Second Row/L-R: Jim Meuth, Wendy Pendergraph, Lynn Lokken, Sally Bear, Jayne Butts, Deb Kleppe, Kris Winkler, Rae Wellnitz, Ricky Kiesling, Cheryl Rezabek, Gregg Smith, and Susan Konopacki

Back Row: Dan Chapman, Eugene Gessler, Sharon Adams, Linda Boll, Marilyn Sandin-Ross, Mary Jackson, Lloyd Lueschow, Mike Davis, Mike Colney, and Kristi Leonard.

Not pictured: Kay Collins-Argue, Catherine Donahue, Elizabeth Disch, Rudy Kaderly, Mary Nelson, Ann Marie Ott, Paul Roemer, and Linda Uttech.

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