

Door County Master Gardener Community Projects

Updated November 2019

ASTRONOMY CENTER, CROSSROADS AT BIG CREEK, Contact person: Barb Henkelmann

In September of 2014, Barb Henkelmann along with other volunteers began a planting project at the Ray and Ruthie Stonecipher Astronomy Center at the Crossroads at Big Creek in Sturgeon Bay. Perennial beds were established surrounding the building itself and also along both sides of the path leading to the building. Grasses, shrubs and flowering perennials were planted. This area continues to be maintained by a group of volunteers including Master Gardeners and members of the Door County Astronomical Society. They meet monthly to weed, mulch and keep the plantings looking great!

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB YOUTH GARDEN PROJECT, Contact person: Lonnie Vitse

The Boys and Girls Club of Sturgeon Bay is fortunate to have four raised beds and additional gardening space behind their building. They also have a raised flower planter in front of the entrance on Third Avenue. Master Gardener Volunteers have assisted the staff and other volunteers with the planting, watering and care of these gardens. Lonnie has worked with the Healthy Life Styles coordinator and her class of children to teach them about various gardening and environmental topics on a weekly basis during the summer months.

BAY VIEW TERRACE, EGG HARBOR, Contact person, Shawn Mathys - NEW 2018

Master Gardener Shawn Mathys was approached by the Village of Egg Harbor to draw up a planting plan for the new terraced gardens along County Road G. Shawn designed the perennial gardens, and along with village employees and other volunteers, planted the area in June of 2018. Master Gardener volunteers along with others from the community and the village employees maintain the gardens.

CROSSROADS FAMILY GARDENING CLASSES, Contact person Coggin Heeringa

Each spring, Family Gardening Classes are offered to Door County families at the Crossroads at Big Creek. Pat Thorp (from Pat's Patch organic farm), along with Coggin Heeringa, Patsy Stierna and other Master Gardener volunteers, assist families in seed starting and learning basic garden skills. This is a three session class in which participants make seed starting blocks, plant seeds, and learn about how to raise the plants successfully in their own home gardens. The seedlings are raised in the greenhouse at Crossroads and nurtured by Master Gardener volunteers until the last class session when participants receive enough starter plants to bring home to begin their own gardens. Herbs, vegetables and flowers are grown and shared.

DOOR COUNTY SEED LIBRARY, Contact person, Penne Wilson

Door County Master Gardeners in conjunction with the Door County Library and other interested community volunteers are in the process of developing a community seed library which will be housed at the Sturgeon Bay branch of the Door County Library. Donated seeds will be available to the public for use in their private, home gardens. The project will include educational materials and programs and is expected to launch early 2019.

DOOR COUNTY SENIOR CENTER GARDEN, Contact person: Helen Bacon

After a year hiatus, the Senior Center Garden will once again be established at the new Senior Center site in the spring of 2019. A large raised bed has been constructed, and planting will occur in spring. All food grown in this garden will be used for the meal program there.

ELLISON BAY FLOWER PROJECT, Contact person: Michelle Kemp

Twelve Master Gardener Volunteers and nine other Ellison Bay residents participate in the Ellison Bay Flower Project which includes planting fertilizing and watering forty barrels and seven planters throughout Ellison Bay from May through October. Gene Kenny (a Master Gardener Volunteer) is building new orchard style flower boxes to replace the old whiskey barrels. This project has been in place for nine years. The project also includes the planting of Gus Klenke's pick-up truck, which is one of the most photographed points of interest in Northern Door County. The bed of the truck is planted each spring and maintained by volunteers throughout the season. This project is fully funded through contributions from local businesses, Liberty Grove Township, and donations. Michelle Kemp orders the plants and coordinates the planting and watering schedules each year.

HERITAGE GARDEN AT CROSSROADS AT BIG CREEK, Contact person: Nancy Goldberg

A devoted group of Master Gardener Volunteers and Sturgeon Bay Garden Club members work together to plant and maintain the Heritage Garden at Crossroads each summer. This garden is planted as a turn of the century garden, using heirloom seeds and vintage gardening practices. The 2018 garden is planted in the German tradition (planted in squares rather than rows of plants). The harvest is donated to local food pantries. Plants are researched and a document is available for reference which tells their origins. Local children's groups visit the garden and help with planting and harvesting. Vegetables and herbs are grown inside the fence, flowers (both annual and perennial) are outside the fence. .

PENINSULA PARK ENTRANCE AND MAIN BUILDING GARDENS, Contact persons: Marsha and Steve Kryzanowski

The plantings surrounding the flag pole and entrance sign as well as the boxes at the ranger station are planted and maintained by Door County Master Gardeners each year. Using a mix of perennials and annuals including many Wisconsin natives, the plantings are a warm welcome to visitors.

PLANT ADVISORY PROGRAM, Contact person: Annie Deutsch

Door County UW-Extension Agricultural Agent, Annie Deutsch, along with Master Gardener Volunteers, have developed a Plant Advisor program for the county. Volunteers accept questions from the public regarding plants, insects, diseases, etc. The volunteers research the problem and return calls to answer questions.

POTAWATOMI PARK ENTRANCE GARDEN, Contact persons: Marian and Rod Schlise

The garden outside of the office at the entrance to Potawatomi State Park is planted and maintained by members of the Peninsula Planters Garden Club and Door County Master Gardener Volunteers. Visitors to the park will find the plants are identified with name tags. The Friends of Potawatomi and the office staff at the park assist with the watering duties.

RIDGES SANCTUARY, Contact person: Sarah Freyman

Master Gardener Volunteers have been involved with the Ridges Sanctuary for many years. You may find them leading nature hikes for adults or children, participating in rare plant species identification, or assisting with ongoing projects such as the Orchid project at the Ridges.

SOUTHERN DOOR SCHOOLYARD GARDEN, Contact person: Vicki Daoust

Master Gardener Volunteers have been intermittently involved with this project over the years. The garden is located on the grounds of Southern Door School. It is planted in the spring by the school children with the assistance of teachers and community volunteers. The maintenance over the summer is shared by families in the school district and also Master Gardener Volunteers. Each fall, the food is harvested and formal "tastings" take place for the children in the school.

STELLA MARIS PARISH PLANTINGS, SISTER BAY, Contact person: Lynn Polacek

Parishioners, including some Master Gardener Volunteers, assist with planting and caring for the entrance garden as well as pots at each of the five entrances to the church. There are also two large raised beds, one of which is planted in perennials, the other in annuals. Over the years, volunteers have planted hydrangeas, grasses, peonies, lavender and mums. Participants assist in spring and fall garden clean up as well as watering throughout the summer.

STURGEON BAY HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE PROJECT, Contact person: Deb Javurek

This is a new project which is just getting underway. The greenhouse on the Sturgeon Bay High school property is currently being built. Master Gardener Volunteers with knowledge of indoor/greenhouse growing will assist key staff and students with development of a planting plan, classroom preparation of supplies for planting, and ongoing maintenance of plants through harvest. The food grown will be used in the school nutrition program.