



Dodge County Youth Master Gardener Association



Inside this issue:

<i>Trees</i>	2, 3, 4
<i>Native Bee Nests</i>	5
<i>Attracting Birds</i>	6
<i>Herbs</i>	7
<i>Team Games</i>	7
<i>Insects</i>	8
<i>Water</i>	8



The concept of a youth organization was a passion of several of our members for a number of years. In March 2011, then Kenosha County Horticulture Educator, Barb Larson, came and gave a presentation to our regular meeting. She presented ideas about how to start, the framework of procedures, and the process that would be needed to stay within the Master Gardener organization.

But, we needed to find some schools to partner with that would encourage the idea. In the spring of 2015 the elementary school principals of both Hustisford and Mayville School districts were on board, enthused, and ready to support the programs.

In the summer of 2015 we launched the Dodge County Youth Master Gardener Association (DCYMGGA) with 8 students in both Hustisford and Mayville schools. The programs begin with Master Gardener volunteers working with teachers through the weeks of summer school classes. Volunteers come to the classes 2-3 times per week and supplement or assist the teachers. Hands on teaching takes place at outdoor locations, including school gardens, community gardens, and service gardens.

After summer school, those students who wish to continue to participate meet with volunteers on a weekly basis. The produce harvested from the vegetable gardens goes home with the students with training in how to prepare it. More education takes place in pollinator gardens, community downtown gardens, and school gardens.

Once school starts, the students continue with classes after school each week and learn about a wide range of topics including container gardening, insects, trees, plant requirements, soil, pollinator gardens, garden design and more. Guest speakers come to class periodically to further enhance learning.

These students can be “certified” just as their adult counterparts. In order to complete this process and receive a pin and certificate, they must: complete 5 hours of community service, belong to a DCYMG organization and attend regularly, complete monthly learning projects provided by their instructor, and write a 50-100 word article about something they have learned. The first year all 16 students were certified.

In 2016, a third class was added. Eleven homeschool students meet in Juneau. At the end of this year, these 3 classes had 23 certified students.

In 2017, a fourth class was added, the HoNoR school district (Herman/Neosho/Rubicon). There are over 40 students enrolled in the 4 classes with most well on their way to certification, some for their third year.

The program has had outstanding reviews from parents and students alike. Originally designed for students from K-6th grade, it has expanded to K-9th grade as students want to stay and continue learning. This year we are launching their own newsletter since there is more than we can realistically publish in the main newsletter. Who knows what exciting things next year will bring!

Carol Shirk, DCYMG Coordinator

Trees

I like gardening class because we learn about lots of new stuff. We learn stuff like grafting, layering, and overall, gardening. It is lots of fun because we also get to have dried apples. They are sooo good. And that leads up to one of my favorite foods. APPLES! Apples are really good and you can grow them in your own backyard. We have one apple tree in our yard. And the apples off of the tree are nothing like the apples you buy at stores. They are so much better. Apple trees can be pretty big but can also be very small. There are red apples, green apples, yellow apples, orange apples, and a purplish black apple. There is no doubt, apple trees are one of my favorite kind of trees



By: Cameron Brandt

In the Dodge County youth master gardener class, I learned how to identify different kinds of trees. Coniferous trees have needles and stay green all year. I learned how to use a coniferous tree key to identify, Spruce, Pine, Hemlock, Fir and Cedar by their needles and cones. Deciduous trees have broad leaves they lose every year. I used a deciduous tree key to identify trees based on whether they are simple or compound, leaf shape, branch structure and bark. I studied Maple, Oak, Ash, Birch and Cottonwood branches in class. I was able to use what I learned in class to identify a tree in my pasture I thought might be poisonous to my horse. What I am learning in youth master gardening class is useful information for today and my future.

By: Bethany Cameron



How do trees access the internet?

They log on



Trees

Trees

I learned many things in my gardening class. I learned about identifying trees, tree trunks, and damaged or diseased trees.

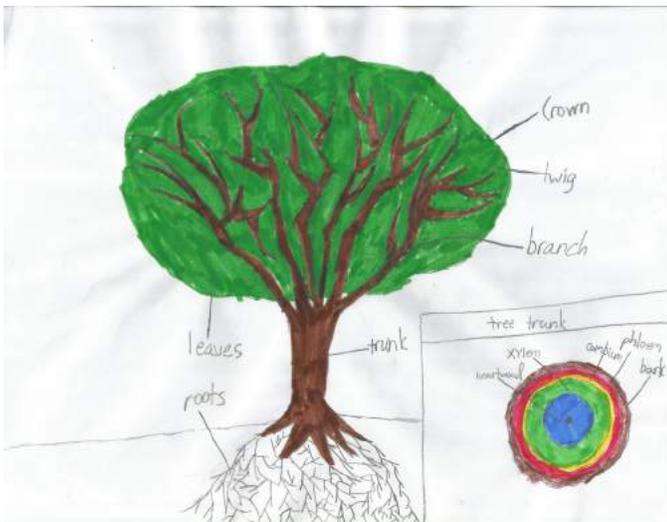
In class, I learned how to identify different trees. I learned that you can look at the tree's twigs, bark, and leaves to identify them. We also learned how to identify trees by their fruit, which can be acorns or anything else the tree produces.

I also learned about tree trunks. A tree trunk has many layers that help the tree stay healthy which are bark, phloem, cambium, xylem, and heartwood. You can also tell how old a tree is by how many rings there are.

I learned about damaged or diseased trees in class too. There are many signs of disease or damage like a thinning crown, bark chipped off, small tunnels, holes on bark, or bark splits. I also learned how to trim and cut down trees safely.

In conclusion, I learned many things in gardening class. I learned about identifying trees, tree trunks, and damaged and diseased trees. I am glad that I get to go to gardening class.

By: Kristina Gregory



Sugar Maple

Sugar maples are the state tree. It's one of the largest and finest forest trees. The scientific name is *Acer Saccharum*. Maple syrup comes from the sap of the sugar maple. The sugar maple grows to 50 to 80 feet tall and up to 50 feet wide. It's an excellent shade tree. Sugar maples grow best in sunny and moist spots. Water the sugar maple during dry periods. Sugar maples are more abundant in Northeast, lake states and Mid-Atlantic states. We have sugar maples in our yard, I like all the different colors in Fall.

By: Brenden Steinke



How do bees travel to trees?
They take the buzz.



Trees

A Bush All Year Round

Winter

In winter a bush is kind of like hibernating because it is not growing



Spring

In spring the bush is budding and soon it will look nice!



Summer

In summer the bush is bloomed and the green leaves are super cool and they only last this way in summer.

Ps: some bushes have flowers



Fall

In fall the leaves turn different colors and the leaves fall to the ground.
It is getting too cold for the bush to live



I love bushes!! They look nice all over your yard !!



Making Native Bee Nests

Hi my name is David Feucht and I'm in 8th grade. I have been in the youth master gardening class for 3 years. In our gardening class we learn about a lot of things and have fun. I am going to talk to you about bee houses that we made. They are made out of tin cans and rolled up paper and toilet paper rolls. First you have to get a tin can and lots of paper and toilet paper rolls. You put the rolls in and then you roll up the paper with pencil and put it in the can until no more fall out when you tip the can upside down then you hang it up in summer in a tree. In fall you should take it down and then you can put it in the fridge till next summer.



Using tin cans and paper in the Mayville and HoNoR classes to make native bee nests.



In addition to using paper tubes in a can or box, students at Hustisford and HoNoR were given the option of providing nest holes in standing trees, blocks or pieces of cut wood. These were made in pieces of fire wood. After a couple years of use the holes need to be redrilled and the block sanitized or there is a risk of spreading disease



Fun Fact: There are approximately 400 verified species of bees in Wisconsin, and more that have not been identified.

Attracting Birds to the Landscape

Birds

I really liked the chickadee that was really fast. It ate caterpillars and ants. They are good for the garden because they eat bad insects. I also like the blue jay. He is blue and I like blue. I like birds because they fly and make nice sounds. We put out bird seed at our house to help the birds.

By: Josi Ridley



Mayville and Homeschool classes stringing popcorn to feed the birds.

What Birds Can Do For You

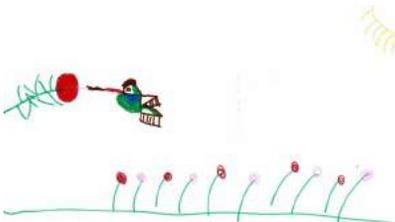
When you are in your garden picking sunflower seeds and you see a raven or a crow, you most likely won't think that bird is the cutest thing you have seen all day. You probably think that raven or crow is up to no good, but that is not true! Birds are helpful in many different ways. Three main ways they are helpful are the manure they provide, their scavenging for harmful insects, and the variety of God given beauty and color they add to your garden. To learn more about how birds are helpful to your garden check-out some bird books from your local library.

By: Liah Ridley



Hummingbirds

Miss Chris came and taught us about hummingbirds. I learned that hummingbird's beaks are longer than their bodies. They weigh between a nickel and a penny. They drink nectar and help plants grow by pollinating flowers. They go to Mexico during the winter. They are a very pretty green color. They are one of my favorite birds. I want to put out a hummingbird feeder.



By: Bryson Casper

Fun Fact: It takes over 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees.

Growing and Using Herbs

Herbs

This year in Youth Master Gardeners we learned about herbs. There are three different jobs that people do that involve herbs. We also learned about safe and dangerous herbs.

The three jobs that people do that involve herbs are a biologist, a herbalist and a cook. The biologist studies living things. They study them so that they know what is dangerous and what is safe. The herbalist studies herbs so they can keep us healthy or get us well from being sick. The cook uses herbs to season food to make it taste better.

This paragraph is about dangerous and safe herbs.

Some of the safe herbs are basil, chives, mint and sweet marjoram. Herbs that are not safe include poison ivy, fox glove, and nightshade. Some safe foods are from unsafe families like the nightshade family, including tomato, potato and peppers. Those are all safe foods that are from a dangerous family. Don't stop eating them, because they are good for you!!!

By Helen Vanderloop



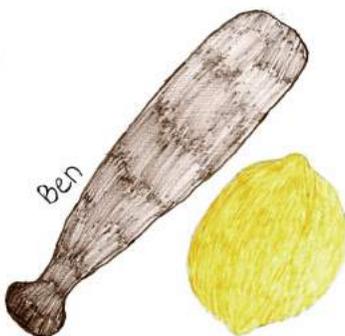
The Mayville students planted windowsill herb gardens with several herbs to choose from - basil, oregano, chive, garlic chive, cilantro, rosemary, sage, lemon balm, or marjoram.



Team Game

Baseball Review Game

In Youth Gardening Class, I enjoyed playing a baseball review game. The class split into two teams and answered questions about what we have learned. The questions were in categories with first base being easy, second base not so easy, third base medium and home run difficult. A team would answer questions until they got three "outs", wrong answers, then the other team would go. In the end, both teams tied so the class got to share a bag of candy. I had fun and I hope we play the game again.



By, Benjamin Cameron

Insects

Insect Orders

All living things on earth are classified and have their own orders. There are seven different insect orders that we learned about.

The first is Odonata. The insects in this order include dragonflies and damselflies. The difference between these two insects is that the damselflies' wings fold back when they're at rest, but the dragonflies' wings stay out when at rest.

The second order is Diptera. Diptera includes house flies, mosquitoes, horse flies, and fruit flies. The insects in the order Diptera are also called true flies.

The third order is Lepidoptera. This order includes butterflies and moths. The main differences between these two is that when butterflies land, their wings come together and stand upright, and they are active during the day; where as the moth's wings lay flat, and they are more active during the night.

Hemiptera, or true bugs, is another order. This order includes box elder bugs, and stink bugs. It also includes bed bugs.

Coleoptera is the fifth order. This order includes all beetles, such as lady beetles, and Japanese beetles. Scarabs and weevils are also examples of beetles.

Hymenoptera is the next order. This order includes bees, wasps and ants. The main difference between bees and wasps is that bees are able to make honey, and wasps are not.

The final order is Orthoptera. Grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids are included in this order. Crickets are different from grasshoppers because they have longer antennae, a smaller body, and produce their chirps in a different way.

By: Josie Bruner



Students in the Homeschool class learned the importance of insects in gardens and how each insect has a unique mouth part that enables it to complete its job. The students were able to “eat like an insect” and experience what it was like to try and pick up food with an insect mouth.

Water

Water Cycle

First the water goes up from a pond or a lake. When the cloud has had enough water it starts making droplets. The droplets turn into raindrops and fall onto plants. The water helps the plants grow. Then the sun beams down on everything and starts the water vapor again.

By: Katie Vanderloop

