

Grant County Master Gardeners

We have 28 members with 26 certified for 2011.

In 2010 we volunteered	104	hours in youth education
	165	hours in community education
	1,297	hours in support service
and participated in	713	hours in continuing education



We hold monthly business meetings, with educational programs and tours open to the public on the third Thursday ten months of the year. Our major fundraiser is our plant sale that supports scholarships and local grants for community projects.

Major Accomplishments or Projects:

1. **Plant Sale** – Our Annual plant sale has almost 100% participation by our membership. Our repeat customers look forward to our sale of perennials and annual bedding vegetable plants each year.
2. **Talk on Native Plants and Tour of Rain Gardens** – Our August meeting included a talk by a water conservation expert and tour of two homes where he had designed the rain gardens for water runoff control. This meeting was our most well attended by non-members, and probably will be repeated because of the interest in water quality and use of native plants in their landscaping.
3. **Workshop on Rain Barrels** – In April, 3 MGVs hosted a workshop on how to make a rain barrel with minimal effort. They researched and created directions with exact material needed to make one on your own or make one at the workshop. We sold three decorated barrels and could have sold more if we would have known they would be a popular item at our plant sale.
4. **Bus Tour** – July found 45 interested gardeners heading to Madison on bus tour to visit the Allen and Olbrich gardens, Susan Mahr's garden, and the Flower Factory. Our evaluations were very satisfactory and it was a great opportunity to interact with other fellow gardeners.
5. **Display at Grant Co. Fair and Belmont School Fair** – Our display at the county fair offered material on how to control a wide range of plant pests. Two or three MGVs staffed the booth in every shift during the 14 hours the booth was open for questions. At the Belmont school fair, we offered free seed packets and an informational brochure on when to plant (donated by Olds Seed Company) for the young gardeners.



Highlighted Project: Katie's Garden Bed Replacement

One of the garden beds of daylilies and bulbs at Katie's Garden in Platteville needed to be renovated to eliminate the need for weeding and cleanup of bulb foliage. We wanted to create a bed that would be a balance in the landscape and fit with the flowers in other beds. MGVs researched alternative planting possibilities, then planned and implemented the new planting. We selected shrubs according to their bloom time and size, as well as individual sun and moisture requirements. We used 'Miss Kim' lilac, 'Pee Wee' hydrangea, 'Wine & Roses' weigela, and yews to provide color, offer seasonal specimens, and complement the walkway. The Grant Co. MGA provided funding to cover the costs, and the Chamber of Commerce approved the plans. The Chamber was grateful for our initiative, as the results will be enjoyed by many visitors.

Our first step was to remove the 1,000 daffodil and tulip bulbs and prepare them for storage, and dig, divide, and pot the daylilies. We donated daylilies to other projects and sold plants to the public. The next step was to amend the soil and plant the shrubs and a small hydrangea tree, replant 'Stella d'Oro' daylilies and transplant marigolds. Our final step was mulching with natural-looking hardwood mulch and labeling the plants.