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Events - This Week and Beyond

City of Madison Community Gardens Committee Meeting - Dec 1

Community gardens serve as grass roots training grounds where neighbors acquire the leadership skills necessary to build strong and diverse communities. The Madison Common Council, concerned with the escalating loss of community gardens in the City of Madison, established the Community Gardens Committee (CGC) in 2005. Charged with preserving, expanding and enhancing opportunities for community gardening, the Community Gardens Committee works to raise the visibility of community gardening and create better understanding of its many benefits.

The committee fosters collaborative partnerships and leverages limited resources by harnessing support for gardens from within the community and multiple units of city government. The

Community Gardens Committee provides an invaluable public forum --a place where garden advocates and city government work together to build a productive and sustainable system of community gardens in Madison.

Representatives of certain city committees (Plan, Parks and CDBG), citizen gardeners, and staff (from the Mayor's office and Community Action Coalition) comprise the committee. Membership is open to anyone with an interest or role in Madison's community gardens. The committee meets monthly (except in the summer months).

All meetings are open to the public, with Hmong and Spanish interpreters available to facilitate participation by all attendees.

Next meeting: Dec. 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Where: City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Rm. 103A

For more information about the Community Gardening Committee:

<http://www.cacscw.org/gardens/committee%20update%20report.doc>

To access the city Web Site:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/residents/communitygardens/index.cfm>

Help Wanted to Design the New Bock Community Garden - Dec 10

The City of Middleton and the City's Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee, is hosting an exciting opportunity on Dec. 10th for interested community members to help design the Bock Community Garden, which will be located on the Southeast side of the John C. Bock Community Forest Restoration Project. This unique community garden will include space for individual gardens that will be devoted to growing vegetables, flowers and herbs; and it will also include space that will be devoted to growing native seedlings, shrubs and perennials for transplant into the forest.

You--as local decision-makers, residents, neighbors, Madison area or Middleton community gardeners and people interested in gardening at Bock--have the insight, experience, ideas, perspective, interest, commitment, and leadership to make this happen! You CAN make a difference in this process. The City of Middleton would therefore like to invite and encourage your participation in a *Design Charrette*, a fun and innovative public workshop that brings community members from different backgrounds and interests together to explore design options for a particular area or site - in this case a new community garden.

The *Design Charrette* for the Bock Community Garden will be held on Thursday, December 10 from 7:00pm--8:30pm, at the Middleton EMS Station, located at 2020 Parmenter Street in Middleton. All are welcome who would like to participate in this opportunity to design a new community garden.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Abby Attoun
Middleton Associate City Planner
(608)827-1043
aattoun@ci.middleton.wi.us

To view City of Middleton Web Site:
<http://www.ci.middleton.wi.us/Default.htm>

Planning for an Enabling Garden at Troy Gardens - Jan 16

Join us to plan the installation of an enabling garden at Troy Gardens and help make gardening more accessible for people of all abilities! Professor of Landscape Architecture, Sam Dennis, will lead a design forum early next year and we want your input.

Mark your calendars:

When: Saturday January 16th, 2010, 10am-1pm
Location: Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd, Madison

Contact Christie at (608) 240-0409 or christie@troygardens.org to learn more about this project.

Fundamentals of Beekeeping - Jan 30

A hands-on full day class for those interested in becoming a beekeeper. Saturday, January 30, 2010, Warner Park Community Center, 1625 Northport Dr., Madison

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Class starts at 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Registration includes: full day class, morning coffee, Lunch, soup and sandwich and salad bar, one year membership in Wisconsin Honey Producers Association and Dane County beekeepers Association.

For questions or additional information, please contact Jeanne Hansen, 608- 244-5094 or jeanniealabeannie@yahoo.com

Cost Prior to Dec 30, 2009—\$50, after Dec. 30, 2009—\$60. Please make check or money order payable to Dane County Beekeepers Association. Send to Jeanne Hansen, 824 Jacobson Ave, Madison WI 53714

For more information on this or other workshops:
<http://www.wihoney.com/about.html>

Grants

2010 Community Gardening Project Grants Due - Nov 30, 2009

The Madison Area Master Gardening Association (MAMGA) is accepting grant applications for community gardening projects to be used during the calendar year 2010. MAMGA provides financial support for gardening projects that meet many of the following criteria:

- Community: Increases beauty and sense of property ownership in the community
- Educational: Increases community knowledge base/innovative gardening methods
- Stewardship: Environmentally/Ecologically responsible
- Teamwork: Involves community members through volunteering, especially youth
- Effectiveness: Begins exchange of garden related ideas and information

MAMGA considers both individual and organization sponsored community gardening projects located within Dane County. Typically, grant awards range between \$200 and \$500, but grants up to \$1000 have been awarded.

All proposals must be submitted by November 30, 2009. Grant applicants will be notified by February 1, 2010.

Go online for a garden grant application:

[http://www.madison.com/communities/mamga/library/files/2010 Community Grant form.doc](http://www.madison.com/communities/mamga/library/files/2010_Community_Grant_form.doc)

2010 New Garden Fund Grants Due - Jan 29, 2010

The New Garden Fund Committee is pleased to announce a sixth year of grants to encourage creation of new community gardens and expansion of existing community gardens in Madison. Grants will be given out in early March 2010.

Who should apply? Groups eligible to apply include:

- Existing gardens hoping to expand (by adding new plots for new gardeners)
- Neighborhoods lacking community garden space that want to create new gardens
- Existing gardens where leases are being lost due to development, etc. that need to be relocated

How are projects selected? Applications will be due on Friday, January 29, 2010. Community gardeners representing neighborhoods throughout Madison are serving as the selection panel for the New Garden Fund grants. One or more groups will be chosen to receive grants by the selection panel, based on criteria chosen by the panel including scarcity of plots in the neighborhood, and increasing access to low income families, minorities and differently-able people.

How much are the grants? Groups from anywhere in Madison can apply for support for their new garden project. Requests from anywhere in the city can be up to \$2000. The grants can help pay for water systems, fences, raised beds, etc. Eligible groups are also encouraged to apply for other City funding for their garden through the Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program, and/or the People for Parks Grant Program and/or the Community Development Block Grant office. In addition, a few gardens could receive continuing support from CAC and the City.

What are the grants used for? Items funded in the past include fencing, hoses, water system, plowing or tilling, tool shed, wheel barrows, tools, lumber, mulch, compost, education workshops, insurance coverage and city fees.

Please contact Nicole Craig, Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc - Food & Gardens, at 246-4730, Ext. 208, for a grant application and a resource packet on how to start your own community garden in Madison.

Grant applications will also be available on our website in early December, at http://cacscw.org/gardens/New%20Garden%20Fund/new_garden_fund_grants.htm.

City of Madison Neighborhood Grants - Due end of March 2010

It's time again to think of an idea and make it happen with the City of Madison's 2010 Neighborhood Grants Program. Are you interested in building a better community, starting in your own backyard? Perhaps your neighborhood has ideas for improving communication to help neighbors feel more connected and to increase safety. Maybe you would like to enhance the physical appearance of neighborhood entrances or, perhaps you have ideas for creating a neighborhood plan or special area plan for the business district?

Over the last eight years, the Neighborhood Grant Program has allocated grant dollars to help fund locally based projects to beautify a gateway or gathering place, or build leadership skills, or to plan for the future. Funding has also been approved for community garden improvements. A few of these projects include:

- Atwood community garden: water line expansion and garden murals
- Quann community garden: the Jessica Bullen Orchard and Quiet Garden, and the living fence surrounding the community garden on three sides
- Marlborough community garden: water line expansion and mosaic project (partial funding)

A previous year's 2009 grant guideline brochure is available to view on this link:

http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/2009%20Grant%20Guideline_Webpage.pdf

The 2010 grant guidelines and application materials will be available starting in Jan. 2010 on this link, although currently it contains 2009 information:

www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/grantprogram.htm

A planned grant workshop is scheduled for January 21, 2010 from 6pm to 7:30pm at Hawthorne Branch Library, 2702 E. Washington Avenue, to review the grant guidelines and to answer questions regarding your proposed projects.

For more information contact:

Linda Horvath, Planning Division at 267-1131 or lhovath@cityofmadison.com

Rebecca Cnare, Planning Division at 266-4957 or rcnare@cityofmadison.com

FYI

2010 Wisconsin Garden Journals

The 2010 *Wisconsin Garden Journal* (*WGJ*) produced by the Madison Area Master Gardeners Association (MAMGA) is available for sale now. This years *WGJ* theme is "The Natural Garden;" the 190-page weekly engagement calendar is a valuable tool to help Midwest gardeners in Zones 3-5 plan and maintain their gardens.

This unique journal features extraordinary color photography and original artwork, three articles, monthly gardening task lists, weekly tips, a planting guide, extensive gardening references, hardiness charts, tables of recommended Wisconsin native plants, bloom time charts and design grids to help you get started hands-on gardening.

The *WGJ* articles include: Kate Heiber-Cobbs on how to garden ecologically and sustainably; UW Arboretum naturalist Molly Fifield Murray on how to use native plants in your garden, and UW Landscape Architecture professor Evelyn Howell looks at garden design using native ferns.

MAMGA is a non-profit organization and the profits from the *WGJ* generously fund community garden grants and school garden grants each year in the Dane County area and other non-profit activities. For more information about the journal visit:

<http://www.madison.com/communities/mamga/library/index.php>

The 2010 *Wisconsin Garden Journal* is a great gift and educational product for both new and seasoned gardeners! It is \$14.95 for non-MAMGA Members, \$11.00 for MAMGA Members and is available for sale at:

- The Dane County UW-Extension office, 1 Fen Oak Court in Madison
- At area retailers

- By mail, a mail order form is available on the MAMGA website:

http://www.madison.com/communities/mamga/library/files/2010_Garden_Journal.pdf

Free 2008 Garden Journals Still Available

The Madison Area Master Gardeners Association has graciously donated many 2008 Wisconsin Garden Journals to share with community gardeners.

While the dates won't line up for this upcoming year, these garden journals are full of resources to help a Wisconsin gardener plan, organize, and maintain their garden year-round. Journals are particularly useful for gardening with kids, as they have charts and tables for recording information about the garden.

If you'd like to pick up a garden journal from the Community Action Coalition offices (1717 N. Stoughton Rd, M-F 8:30am-4:30pm), please contact Nicole at nicolec@cacscw.org or 246-4730 ext 208.

The Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide

For information on home fruit production in the Midwest, don't miss Bulletin #940, a 148 page, full color bulletin published by Ohio State University. It includes: Introduction on the benefits of growing fruit; Tree fruits; Small fruits; Less commonly grown fruits; Landscape aspects of fruit plants; Obtaining and using fruits; Pest management and disease control in home fruit plantings; Ribes, goosberries and currant; Some sources of fruit plants; and a Glossary of terms.

You can print out pages or sections that are of interest by going to the Ohio State bulletin site: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b940/index.html>

Or you can order it for \$9.50 at this site: <http://estore.osuextension.org/>

New Resources for Finding a Garden to Grow In

1) Growfriend

Growfriend.org is a new online community dedicated to expanding organic food production by matching gardeners with unused land in their neighborhood. Gardeners without food-growing space can register at **Growfriend** to find neighbors willing to share their yards to grow vegetables.

Gardeners and landowners create online profiles, locate nearby potential partners on a clickable map, and then follow guidelines to determine compatibility and plan their partnership. This is new to our area, but can be used as a tool to share a garden in the Madison area.

To learn more about Growfriends, please visit: <http://www.growfriend.org>

2) Yards to Gardens

The purpose of Yards to Gardens is to connect people who are looking for gardening space with people who have available space.

The Victory Gardens of World War II, at their peak, produced 44% of the produce that Americans consumed. Since then we've built a food system where the average meal travels 1500 miles and changes hands 6 times from farm to fork, and where it takes 10 calories of fossil fuel to manufacture 1 calorie of food.

By joining Yards to Gardens, you can not only help to fight climate change by producing food at home, you also plant the seeds for a safer and stronger neighborhood by building healthy relationships in your community. Let's begin to sow the seeds for a colorful new patchwork. While Y2G is based out of Minneapolis, MN, the site can work anywhere in the world. Turn a yard into a garden today!

To learn more about Yards to Gardens, please visit <http://www.y2g.org/>

Volunteer Opportunities

Join the *New Garden Fund* Panel

Are you interested in supporting new and expanding community gardens in the City of Madison? The *New Garden Fund* panel is seeking Madison community gardeners, particularly gardeners whose community gardens have been supported by the fund in the past, to join as new panel members and assist with the *New Garden Fund* grant selection process.

Panel members meet each year during the late fall and winter to evaluate and choose recipients of *New Garden Fund* grants. Meeting commitments are minimal. The next meeting of the New Garden Fund panel will be early February.

For more information on the *New Garden Fund*, visit http://cacscw.org/gardens/New%20Garden%20Fund/new_garden_fund_grants.htm.

For more information on the *New Garden Fund* panel, or if you would like to become a panel member, contact Nicole Craig at 246-4730 ext. 208, or nicolec@cacscw.org

Garden Expo Volunteer Opportunities

As you lay your garden to rest and cover your plants for the season and settle in for a cold winter, Wisconsin Public Television wants to help you think spring by volunteering at Garden Expo 2010! Garden Expo will run February 12-14, 2010 at the Exhibition Hall of the Alliant Energy Center.

By February you will be ready to take a break from winter and Garden Expo will feature free seminars and demonstrations and a fantastic vendor mall with the latest gardening and landscaping products.

To make this year's event a success, we need almost 220 volunteers to sell tickets, assist presenters, check-in volunteers and much much more. Volunteering is a fun and an easy way to show your support for WPT! As a thank you for volunteering, we'll provide you with free parking and admission to the show.

There are three ways to sign up:

1. Register Online: <http://www.wpt.org/development/volunteer/>
2. Email Ericka Balgord: volunteer@wpt.org
3. Call Ericka Balgord at (608) 265-4436.

Thank you for supporting Wisconsin Public Television and helping us make this great, green event come alive!

Volunteers Needed - Classroom Snack Program

Every day, thousands of Wisconsin children line up for breakfast and lunch at school. School meals are a significant part of their daily food consumption -- and for many children, they may be the day's only source of nutritious food. Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch (WHL), a program sponsored by REAP (Research, Education, Action and Policy) on Food Group - believes that our school children, regardless of income level, should have access to Wisconsin's highest quality agricultural products.

WHL is a creative strategy that brings more fresh fruits and vegetables into schools by providing fresh snacks during classroom snack time. The snacks are purchased from local producers for much of the year. Once a week all students at Lincoln, Leopold, Schenk, Glendale, Lake View, Lapham, Marquette, Franklin, Gompers and Shorewood Elementary Schools receive a fresh

fruit or vegetable snack. Classroom teachers are provided **'Snack Bites'** with each snack which provide information about the farm where the snack came from and nutritional information that can be shared with students as they enjoy their snack.

WHL is seeking volunteers to help prepare these delicious, nutritious snacks! Volunteer shifts are on Sundays for 2-3 hours at RP's Pasta Co., 1133 E. Wilson St. No experience needed. Desire to work hard (and safe) and have fun is.

Contact Melissa Kieffer

WHL Program Assistant to sign up:
melissak@reapfoodgroup.org

To see the Snack Bite information sheets:

Asparagus Snack Bite:

http://www.reapfoodgroup.org/farmentoschool/Classroom%20Snack%20Program/snack%20bite_Asparasagus.pdf

Carrot Snack Bite:

http://www.reapfoodgroup.org/farmentoschool/Classroom%20Snack%20Program/snack%20bite_carrot_Tipi.pdf

Kohlrabi Snack Bite:

http://www.reapfoodgroup.org/farmentoschool/Classroom%20Snack%20Program/snack%20bite_kohlrabi.pdf

Sweet Potato Snack Bite:

http://www.reapfoodgroup.org/farmentoschool/Classroom%20Snack%20Program/snack%20bite_sweet%20potato.pdf

Jicama Snack Bite:

http://www.reapfoodgroup.org/farmentoschool/Classroom%20Snack%20Program/snack%20bite_Jicama.pdf

REAP is committed to projects that shorten the distance from farm to table, support small family farmers, encourage sustainable agricultural practices, preserve the diversity and safety of our food supply and address the food security of everyone in our community.

For more information about REAP, and Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch:

<http://www.reapfoodgroup.org/>

Please send a note to Patty Zehl at: pattyz@cacscw.org if you would like to get off this email list, add a friend to it, or share an announcement with your fellow community gardeners in the Madison area. If you receive this email more than once, please contact me so I can remove duplicate messages.