



Community Gardens of Dane County Community Action Coalition for South Central WI Inc.

1717 N STOUGHTON
RD MADISON, WI
53704
(608) 246-4730
FAX (608) 246-4760
WWW.CACSCW.ORG

Special Points of Interest Inside:

- A dedicated volunteer grows food for the hungry
- A chance to learn about urban home-steading
- Support a local teaching and food pantry garden
- Funds available for your garden or new orchard

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Volunteer Spotlight | 2 |
| Garden Facts of the 2010 Season | 2 |
| Upcoming Area Events | 3 |
| Volunteer Opportunities at CAC | 4 |
| Grants Available | 4 |

Fall Newsletter

November 2010

Three Madison Area Sites Win a Free Orchard

We can all give ourselves a pat on the back for the fact that Madison is the only metropolitan area in the US to win three orchards from the online contest, Communities Take Root. The [Fruit Tree Planting Foundation](#) and Edy's Fruit bars awarded trees to Bock Middleton Community Garden, Eagle Heights Community Garden, and Wingra Park. Here are some updates on each of the orchards.

Robin Mittenenthal provided the following update on the Eagle Heights Orchard:

With the help of the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation's expert arborist, Rico Montenegro, several dozen volunteers from Eagle Heights Community Gardens planted 57 fruit trees and 20 blueberry plants in and around the gardens on September 15th. The trees, donated by Edy's Fruit Bars, are mostly apples but also include pears, cherries, and peaches. Though obviously not bearing edible fruit yet, the



Michelle, Jason, and Nicole from Community Action Coalition digging a hole for a fruit tree at Wingra Park, one of the three areasites to win a free orchard.

trees have already served as a focus for more communal activity, including several follow-up events involving staking of the trees to prevent wind damage and caging of the trunks to prevent rodent damage (mice and other little creatures like to eat the bark of young fruit trees, especially under the snow in the winter). Despite the unusually late planting, the trees seem well established and actually did a fair bit of growing before the season ended. Any and all interested gardeners will meet in late winter to prune them, and then in the spring we'll fertilize them, irrigate, (continued on page 3)

Community Gardens Program received funding increase – Thank you for your support!

The Conference Committee for Neighborhood Programs areas in the City of Madison Community Development funding process has released their final funding decisions for 2011 and 2012. The CAC Community Gardens Program has been allocated **\$56,328** in the Strengthening Madison Neighborhoods category. This reflects an increase of approximately \$12,640 from CAC's 2010 funding allocation. Overall, this allocation amounts to around 1% of the total being granted.

Thank you to all the gardeners and community members who attended the public hearing or sent in letters of support of this funding increase for the Community Gardens Program to the CDBG Committee. We appreciate your support!

Volunteer Spotlight

Submitted by Emmett Schulte

Mrs. Julian is involved in all phases of the Madison Area Food Pantry Garden Project – planning, planting, weeding, harvesting, and delivery of produce to the Community Action Coalition (CAC) and the 2nd Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. She also supervises volunteer adult and youth groups in the gardens and trains new volunteers in gardening techniques.

This project raises vegetables on 4 to 5 acres of land at three locations, solely with volunteer help. Approximately 1,000,000 lbs of fresh vegetables were raised since the project began in 2000. Maryanne has been involved with the project from its inception. Because rainfall is the only water source at the gardens, weed control is vital. Maryanne is often seen hoeing alone in one or other of the gardens when there are too few volunteers to do an adequate job of weeding.

In addition, Maryanne collects surplus bakery products from a PDQ service center weekly and delivers it to food pantries.

Food drives typically call for “non-perishable items.” Fresh vegetables are a scarcity at most food pantries. This project initiated collection of surplus produce from the Farmers’ Market on the Square on Saturdays, then expanded to collection from the Hildale, Fitchburg and Middleton farmers’ markets. On the best weeks, as much as 2 tons of produce are collected, but this does not go very far when distributed among 44 food pantries.

To alleviate this situation and provide more nutritious fresh vegetables, the Madison Area Food Pantry Garden Project was initiated in 2000. Initially, there were gardens near Mount and Cottage Grove. The distance discouraged many from volunteering but did not deter Maryanne. She appeared at every garden when needed, on her own initiative

without a special request for her assistance. Her dedication and willingness to work in all kinds of weather has been an inspiration to other volunteers. As a result, we provide nearly 100,000 lbs of produce annually to Dane County food pantries.



Mrs. Julian helps plan the garden activities and assists with execution of the plans. She recruits volunteers, trains new volunteers at the beginning of each work session, and teaches as well by example. She is not afraid of back-bending weeding or harvesting. At harvest time, she helps transport produce to CAC, 2nd Harvest Foodbank or St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. She also has helped harvest surplus vegetables from the UW Garden Demonstration plots at the West Madison Research Farm and the Arlington Research Station.

Maryanne underwent knee surgery in the spring of 2006. She continued to volunteer after a very brief recovery period. She would not listen to suggestions that she take “easy” tasks to relieve knee stress. She willingly works in cold and/or wet weather when necessary. She purchased rain gear at her own expense for that purpose. Her example has been a model for other volunteers.

Thank you Maryanne for all you do!

Is there someone you’d like to recognize for his or her work with community, school or pantry gardens? We encourage you to nominate them to be featured in our upcoming newsletters. Nominations can be sent to Jason Clay at Jasonc@cacscw.org.

CAC Fall Harvest Potluck –Reflection on a Year of Bountiful Harvest

First off, I would like to thank all of the gardeners that joined us for our end of the season potluck last week. It was a wonderful time of sharing of food and ideas. During the potluck Chris Brockel, the community gardens supervisor at CAC, shared a few facts about what has been happening with gardens in Dane County lately. Here are a few of the interesting facts he shared.

- Since 2002, the number of community gardens in Dane County has grown from 26 to 53.
- In 2002, few community gardens existed outside the greater Madison area. There are now 16 in 2010.
- Over 2,000 households are participating in community gardening in Dane County this season.
- From 2000 to 2009 there were 4 to 5 acres of land used to grow food for food pantry donations all by a single group. In 2010 there are over 10 acres of land being gardened for food pantry donations by 23 different groups.
- Thus far in 2010, over 80,000 pounds of produce have been donated by food pantry gardens/ Plant-A-Row for the Hungry efforts.

Orchard Plantings Cont.

and potentially start trying some pest management techniques. Rather than having gardeners pick the apples piecemeal, we plan to use the fruit for one or two fall cider pressings using a donated cider press. Along with almost 50 trees we planted in 2008 and 2009, our new trees make a lovely orchard. Besides the fruit it will provide, we think one of the greatest benefits of the orchard is the example it sets for local gardeners and homeowners ("Yes! You too can grow fruit!") and the educational opportunities it provides ("Want to learn to prune your trees? Come on over and do ours with us first!").

Percy Mathers shared the following about the process of winning the orchard for Wingra Park, which was the only site not adjacent to an existing garden:

Participating in the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation's contest gave our small Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood site national visibility and much more publicity than if we had simply raised funds to buy our trees ourselves. We would not have won the contest but for



the generous support from the two area groups that had already won their free trees earlier in the five-month contest. We appealed to those groups for help and they responded with their votes. That support was enough for Wingra Park to become the final orchard site to win free fruit trees. The generosity of that community support touched all of us

deeply and left an enduring sense of gratitude and renewed dedication to create an orchard-garden that will be a source of edible beauty for the public for years to come. It was also a reminder of how we can help other groups if they should choose to compete in the future.

Jane Prejean provided this message from Bock Middleton Community Garden:

On September 17th, Bock Middleton Community Garden was presented with 28 fruit trees as a cooperative effort from Edy's Fruit Bars and The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation. There are 18 apple trees, 5 cherry trees, and 5 peach trees planted around the perimeter of the garden. The two to three year old trees were provided by Jung's Nursery and should produce fruit in another couple of years. These trees will provide literally tons of fruit over their lifetime, and the majority of that fruit will go to Middleton Outreach Ministry. The remainder will be delightfully enjoyed by the gardeners and neighborhood surrounding the garden.

The Bock Community Gardeners are enormously excited to have these beautiful trees gracing their garden and providing not only fruit, but also fragrant spring flowers, a home for nesting birds, and a steadfast reminder that communities can be far reaching -affecting people not just around the block, but around the world as well.

To learn more about a local group that encourages planting and harvesting of fruits and nuts in Madison, visit www.madisonfruitsandnuts.org. Also visit their website for an interactive map of fruit trees and shrubs around our city!

Area Events

Join us at the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable

Date: Saturday November 6th

Time: 8am to 12:30 (Registration 8-8:30am)

Location: Urban League of Greater Madison, 2222 S. Park Street

Cost: Free!!

The Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable offers another opportunity for review, discussion and comment on the preliminary Economic Development Committee (EDC) options for City development review. For more information and to register, go to

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/>.

Online registration is open until Thurs-

day, November 4th at 8AM. You may also register at the event. For further questions, contact Linda Horvath at 267-1131 lhovath@cityofmadison.com or Ruth Ethington at 267-8727, rethington@cityofmadison.com.

Viewing of Homegrown: The 21st Century Family Farm

Date: Wednesday, November 3rd

Time: 7pm

Location: Upstairs at the Madison Public Library 201 West Mifflin St.

Cost: Free!!

This documentary follows Jules Dervaes and his three grown children as they navigate the urban homesteading movement. The film captures the challenges

the family faces while living off the grid and depending on their 1/10th of an acre as their only source of income.

Fitchburg Fields 2nd Annual Harvest Dinner:

To Benefit their Teaching and Food Pantry Garden

Date: Thursday, November 18th

Time: 5:45-8:30

Location: Lussier Family Heritage Center, 3101 Lake Fam Rd. Madison

Cost: \$35 per person

Catering by the Underground Food Collective—vegetarian options provided. Live music, door prizes, and more. Purchase your tickets at the Willy Street Coop, www.fitchburgfields.org, or call 223-9571 to reserve your place by November 9th!



**1717 N STOUGHTON
RD MADISON, WI
53704
(608) 246-4730
FAX (608) 246-4760
WWW.CACSCW.ORG**

Community Gardens
online: [http://
www.cacscw.org/
gardens.php](http://www.cacscw.org/gardens.php)



Community Action Coalition

CAC is a community action agency, which is a non-profit organization established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty". Our mission is to develop the economic and social capacities of individuals, families, and communities to reduce poverty in Dane, Jefferson, and Waukesha Counties. Since its founding in 1966, CAC has engaged communities in the struggle to eliminate poverty. By creating and operating a wide variety of programs through specialized divisions, we strive to enhance the skills, knowledge and capacity of people experiencing poverty so they may improve their social and economic circumstances.

New Garden Fund Grants Now Available

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 Dane County. Grant applications will also be available on our website, at http://www.cacscw.org/garden_grants.php.

Funds For an Orchard at Your Community or School Garden

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation is currently accepting the first 125 qualified applicants for the next round of the contest. Don't wait to download and submit the application found on their website: www.ftpf.org/application.doc.

Jamba Juice will be awarding up to \$500 of fruit trees to school gardens to create engaging nutrition and gardening experiences. Visit their website to fill out an application by November 29th <http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/jamba.asp>.

Get Involved With Madison Area Community Gardens

How Can You Help CAC Community Gardens?

There are many volunteer opportunities available assisting the community gardens in the Madison area. For more information about the current opportunities, email [Jason Clay](mailto:Jason.Clay) or call (608) 246-4730 ext. 209.

Join the City of Madison Community Gardens Committee

The City of Madison Community Gardens Committee (CMCGC) is currently seeking new citizen members to represent community gardeners 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 any Madison resident who has 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.

The CMCGC was established in 2000 and given

the charge of preserving, expanding and enhancing opportunities for community gardening in Madison. The 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.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 7th, 5-6pm
Where: City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Rm. 108

For more information, visit the [website](#) of the City's Community Gardens Committee.

If you are interested in being a member of the City Community Gardens Committee, please contact Nicole Craig at nicolec@cacscw.org or call her at 246-4730 ext. 208.