

Eau Claire County
Master Gardener Volunteer Program
Position Description: Plant Sale Coordinator



WHO: A Master Gardener Volunteer

WHAT: The UWEX plant sale is our largest annual fundraising event and a tradition that provides greens and other foliage to the community.

WHY: Help run an event that directly benefits the surrounding community in a variety of ways. To have fun at this very social event and spread the love of green things!

WHEN: Usually held in August

WHERE: Eau Claire County Expo Center

Impact: The sale proceeds are used to support the educational outreach programs and community projects in the Eau Claire area. We also make donations to a number of community programs and events such as the Eau Claire County Junior (4-H) Fair, the Farmers Market, and similar worthwhile causes.

Responsibilities:

- Coordinating planning meetings
- Sending out volunteer requests
- Being at the plant sale
- Helping promote the event

In past years we've had "Big Digs" and "Potting Parties". The Big Digs were the result of our members learning of an organization or an individual who was planning to eliminate some gardens or cut back on their gardening responsibilities. We have offered to help by dividing and digging plants for them if they in turn were willing to let us sell the plants at our sale.

We informed our members of the opportunity, and they would show up at the appointed time and place with trowels and shovels in hand to help dig the plants. Then we arranged the "Potting Parties" in order to get those donated plants ready to sell.

It was also an opportunity for some of our MG volunteers to bring plants they had dug from their gardens and work together to get them potted. We order soil for potting, pick up used pots donated by local nurseries, and meet at the Expo Center for a potluck and potting up event. We get a lot of plants potted and the atmosphere is fun and social.

Supplies available:

- A list of interested volunteers that helped with the plant sale in the past will be provided with contact information.
- Erin LaFaive can send out email messages to the entire membership & Carol Cox can add information to the ECAMG newsletter.
- Erin LaFaive helps to promote the event to the media.
- The poster from previous years can be edited for the 2013 event.
- Tables are provided by the Expo Center.
- Signs from previous years.

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by UW-Extension specialists and agents in many aspects of horticulture. In return for their training, Master Gardeners volunteer to help with UW-Extension educational programs in horticulture and a wide variety of community service projects.