



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – June 2015

The Community Gardens are located on South Pioneer Rd.

- [Expanding Access](#)
- [Entrepreneurship Educator](#)
- [Community Gardens](#)
- [Junior Master Gardeners](#)

Expanding Access

Expanding access in Fond du Lac County 4-H Youth Development is focused on: First Generation 4-H members. Araceli Oswald, 4-H Youth Development Assistant, hosted a new family orientation where new members had the opportunity to learn about 4-H concepts and definitions, projects, opportunities, record books, etc. Matt Immel, President of the Fond du Lac County Fair Board, talked about signing up for fair and the judging process. Also, from January through July, a monthly postcard has been sent to all the new 4-H families with simple tips, advice and a constant reminder to contact us for support along their 4-H journey. These postcards were created thanks to feedback of current 4-H members on “things I wish I knew” my first year in 4-H.

Araceli Oswald is assisting the University of Wisconsin in conducting a Latino Youth and Families Study. The purpose of the study is to better understand integration of Latinos into communities in Wisconsin. UW-Extension Fond du Lac County hosted the first of a series of focus groups where people shared their experiences, needs, fears and dreams. Through this study, we hope to carefully gather information and insights that will allow us to interact with Latino communities in the most conscientious, respectful and effective manner.

Fond du Lac County 4-H Youth Development joined the statewide team: Expanding Access. The team’s goal is: 4-H Youth Development programs reflect the communities in which they operate. This team will allow us to bring programs for volunteers and current 4-H members to better understand and support first generation families and open conversations about structural, cultural, social, attitudinal barriers to engaging youth who have not previously been involved in UW-Extension youth development programs.

Entrepreneurship Educator

Greetings – My name is Mike Winkler and over the past few weeks I have begun my journey as the new Entrepreneurship Educator (20% position). My background experience in business and more recently in education are central to my role in developing entrepreneurial projects in the greater Fond du Lac County area. Of special emphasis will be serving traditionally underserved groups in our community. Since I have a strong background in the Fond du Lac area, I look forward to serving our population and helping keep entrepreneurship growing.

My projects and current work here at UW-Extension will be centered on the Going Solo curriculum for community members, including young learners in the local area, and working with partner organizations in the region to build more teams to further the idea of “Everyone is an entrepreneur.” Of special interest to me will be the work with local schools and students on new ideas of entrepreneurship in the areas of the proposition of starting your own business or working as a consultant in a chosen career field and being prepared for the working world.

In addition to my work with UW-Extension, I also teach several business courses at UW-Fond du Lac. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas or project ideas you have - 920/929-3173 or michael.winkler@ces.uwex.edu. Thank you and I am happy to be aboard!

Community Gardens

The Community Gardens are having a great spring! The topsoil that was added in the fall is very much appreciated for those areas where it was placed. The standing water has not been a big issue this spring because of the improvement and also it has not been as rainy as the past couple of years. We also placed another water tank on the north edge of the garden which has been very beneficial to the gardeners.

With the help of the Master Gardeners, we are planning the next project to enhance the gardens. The plan is to plant a cover crop in the unused portions on the south edges of the gardens. This would save the mowers from having to try to mow the areas throughout the summer and also keep them from going to weeds and improve the soil tilth.

Junior Master Gardeners

Junior Master Gardeners are off to a good start in their garden on the hill at UW-Fond du Lac. They have everything planted and will be finishing the weeding and mulching soon. We will also be planting some leftover tomato plants that they started from seed in the greenhouse in the lasagna bed. They will be learning about composting in the coming weeks.

Extension Connection Contributors:

Araceli Oswald, 4-H Youth Development Assistant

Mike Winkler, Entrepreneurship Educator

Patty Percy, Community Gardens Coordinator

Fond du Lac County UW-Extension

400 University Drive, AE-227, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Phone: (920) 929-3170; Fax: (920) 929-3181

Hearing Impaired Relay: 711

<http://fonddulac.uwex.edu>



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