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UW-Extension  
Sheboygan County  
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## UW-Extension Sheboygan County

*Community Growth Management Education*

### Kevin Struck, Growth Management Educator

Plans are “living” documents, and to keep them relevant they must be updated on a regular basis. This past month Kevin was invited to review the *Town of Lyndon Comprehensive Plan*, which was due for its statutory 10-year update, and the draft *Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan - 2015*.

#### Town of Lyndon Comprehensive Plan

State statutes require that any community that wishes to regulate general zoning and land divisions must have an adopted comprehensive plan. Lyndon adopted such a plan in 2004. Further, this plan must be updated at least once every 10 years. The Town had overlooked this requirement until Kevin reminded them of it. Working with Kevin and Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, the Town has completed its update and will be adopting its new plan following a public hearing in June.



#### Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan

Over the past several years, many Sheboygan County communities have benefited from Wisconsin’s Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Grants for recreational projects and key land acquisitions for parks and preservation. (A recent example is the \$52,500 grant the Town of Wilson received to help purchase land for a new neighborhood park.) In order to be eligible for a grant, local communities need to adopt an **open space and outdoor recreation plan** every five years. Since most communities are small and lack professional planning staff, Sheboygan County has always taken the lead and compiled a single plan for everyone, with input from local officials.



*The County’s Gerber Lake Wildlife Area was purchased with help of Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds in 1997 and 2001.*

The County is currently updating the plan for its scheduled 5-year re-adoption and Kevin was asked to review the draft, which he recently did.

“Thanks for checking it over, Kevin . . . the points you made are very helpful and I’ll be sure to include the rest,” wrote Associate Planner Emily Vetting.



*Your county  
extension office*

Sheboygan County  
UW-Extension Staff  
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Michael J. Ballweg  
Crops & Soils Agent

Jane E. Jensen  
Family Living Educator

Sarah J. Tarjeson  
4-H Youth  
Development Educator

Linda Lueder  
4-H Youth Development  
Program Coordinator

Betsy Warmus  
4-H Youth Development  
Assistant (25%)

Kevin Struck  
Growth Management  
Educator

~ Vacant ~  
Dairy & Livestock Agent

~ Vacant ~  
Nutrition Education  
Program Coordinator  
- and -  
Nutrition Education  
Educator  
(shared with Manitowoc)

#### Administrative Assistants

Ann Herzog  
Nancy Meyer  
Tammy Zorn

## UW-Extension Sheboygan County May 2015 - IMPACT REPORT

*4-H Youth Development*

### Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator and Linda Lueder, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator

The National Extension Conference on Volunteerism (NECV) is an opportunity for sharing and learning the **latest research and trends in volunteerism**, gaining ideas for reaching new volunteers, investigating best practices for developing and retaining current volunteers, and strengthening volunteer management efforts. Sarah and Linda had the opportunity to participate and learn from colleagues at this year’s conference.

◇ In addition to gaining knowledge and practical skills for facilitation of community needs assessment as related to program development, they also gained practical ideas for engaging volunteers in middle management roles that promote, advocate, and deliver educational activities that are in line with the goals of the 4-H Program.

◇ They learned about advanced training for older adults already engaged in volunteering, with the goal of enhancing their knowledge about intergenerational programs and building their leadership skills to help effectively reach out to age-diverse populations, facilitate communication and cooperation across generations, and build consensus and teamwork among partnering organizations.



*Members of the “Silent Generation” (those born before 1946) have given over 900 years of service to the County’s 4-H Youth Development Program.*

◇ By using the VARK Learning Preference instrument designed by Neil Fleming, Sarah and Linda were each able to identify their Learning Preference and how it impacts teaching style and meeting the learning needs of a broader audience.

◇ They learned why calculating volunteer ROI is important and how calculating it correctly allows staff to more deeply assess their organization’s assets and liabilities, determine impact of program changes, and paint a more complete organizational picture. They learned about *all* of the gains to an organization volunteers bring, such as higher cash donations and money saved due to increased efficiency.

◇ The conference also highlighted what drives motivation in volunteers: 1) Autonomy, the desire to direct one’s own life; 2) Mastery, the desire to improve at something that matters; and 3) Purpose, the yearning to do what we do in the service of something larger than ourselves. Understanding these motivations helps in retaining volunteers.

◇ Sarah and Linda were also shown the process of using the assessment tool “Five Dysfunctions of a Team” by Patrick Lencioni (absence of trust, fear of conflict, lack of commitment, avoidance of accountability, and inattention to results.) This session gave them hands-on training in helping teams overcome obstacles that could be present.

# UW-Extension Sheboygan County

*Agriculture and Natural Resources*

## Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent/Crops & Soils



*UW-Madison Soil Science Department Research Associate Jamie West (pictured left) and UW-Madison students recently visited Sheboygan County to assist with cover crop research being conducted on the Roehrborn Farm near Johnsonville.*

**C**over Crops add organic matter, improve soil structure, and improve water infiltration while enhancing the natural productivity of soil. Using cover crops is an old practice finding new interest among farmers. Research being conducted in Sheboygan County and elsewhere across Wisconsin is exploring which cover crop species, planting timelines and rotations work best in Wisconsin. This research project is examining the nitrogen producing benefits of annual clovers.

**S**heboygan County Master Gardeners sponsored a series of 4 Horticultural Classes on topics related to gardens and yard care this past winter and spring.

- ◆ Kicking off the winter gardening season, Rob Zimmer discussed **“Gardening For The Senses.”**
- ◆ Bruce Schweiger talked about lawns: **“Low Maintenance Lawns and Spring Lawn Care Do’s and Don’ts.”** With 30+ years’ experience, Schweiger is an agronomist specializing in turf grass and is manager of the O.J. Noer Turf Diagnostic Lab at UW-Madison.
- ◆ Mark Konlock, Director of Horticulture at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, presented **“Choosing the Best of the New Plants Without Overlooking the Best of the Old.”**
- ◆ Winding up the gardening series was Stan Tekiela, nationally known ornithologist and author. Stan discussed **“The Realities of Gardening with and for Birds.”** Over the past three decades Stan has authored more than 130 field guides, nature appreciation books, and wildlife audio CDs for nearly every state in the nation, presenting many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, trees, wildflowers, and cacti.

**More than 200 people attended the horticulture winter/spring educational classes.**

### *A Sample of Upcoming UW-Extension Programs*

June 9—Family Caregiver Education Group, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Aging & Disability Resource Center

June 11—Innovative Farmland Preservation Zoning, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, [https://datcp-wi.adobeconnect.com/fpoverlay\\_bftalt/](https://datcp-wi.adobeconnect.com/fpoverlay_bftalt/)

# UW-Extension Sheboygan County

*Family Living & Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP)*

## Jane Jensen, Family Living Educator

**T**he information in your **credit report** can affect your life in important ways. It can 1) influence your interest rate for credit cards and loans, 2) affect your monthly insurance payments, 3) impact your ability to get a mortgage or rent an apartment, and 4) maybe even limit job opportunities.

What’s in your credit report? It is a detailed record of your credit activities from the past seven to ten years. Because credit reports are used so often, federal law gives everyone the right to request three free credit reports each year—one from each of the three credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. You can order your free credit report through the mail, by calling toll free, or at the official website AnnualCreditReport.com.

**UW-Extension makes ordering your free reports easy through its “Check Your Free Credit Report: 2/2, 6/6, 10/10” website.** Anyone can sign up at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/creditreport> to receive an email reminder three times a year—on 2/2, 6/6, and 10/10. UW-Extension recommends that you view one report every four months so you can be sure that the information is up-to-date and accurate. For most individuals, ordering a free credit report online takes less than 5 minutes. But if you’ve moved recently or had a name change, obtaining your free report will likely involve a few additional steps.

When ordering a free report online, there are typically three security questions you’ll be asked to verify your identity. These multiple-choice questions might ask about past residential addresses, names of lenders, or the amount of a car or home loan, for example. After answering the questions, you will have access to your requested free report for viewing online or for printing to keep for your records.

If the free credit report request is not accepted, whether it’s online, through the mail, or over the phone, you might receive a message that, for your protection, the report cannot be delivered. There may be some type of disagreement between the information you submit and the information in the credit bureau files. Or, in the case of online requests, you may have answered one of the security questions incorrectly.

In either case, you will need to follow up with a paper request form along with additional documentation. You can start the process by printing off a paper request form, available at AnnualCreditReport.com. In addition, you will need copies of several items to verify your identification and address. The items must include your Social Security number and your current home mailing address. It is helpful to enlarge photocopies of any items that contain small print (driver’s license, W2 forms, etc.), to avoid delays. Also, do not highlight or write on any of the copies mailed to the credit bureau.

Sending in additional paperwork can be annoying, but it’s worth it. Sometimes wrong information is a simple data entry error; other times, it could be a sign of fraud. Whatever caused the mistake, it could pose a problem if you are looking for a loan, a new job, a place to rent, or even renewing your auto insurance.

The UW-Extension “2/2, 6/6, 10/10” website provides additional information and website links for ordering and reading the free reports. If you suspect wrong information on your credit report is more than just an error, but could be a result of fraud, the campaign’s website has information on security freezes, fraud alerts, and identity theft, along with a sample dispute letter.

*Article source: Peggy Olive, UW-Extension/UW-Madison Financial Capability Specialist*