



UW-Extension Sheboygan County March 2015

4-H Youth Development

Sheboygan County
Planning, Resources,
Agriculture &
Extension Committee

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University of Wisconsin,
United States Department
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ment and programming,
including Title IX & ADA.

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

On February 21, over 200 youth in the Sheboygan County 4-H program came together to perform in the **4-H Music and Drama Festival** held at the UW-Sheboygan Theater. Twelve clubs put together skits or musicals that averaged about 15 minutes in length. The clubs spend several months planning, rehearsing, and preparing to showcase their skills and talents. Each club skit or musical was directed by adult volunteer leaders, and two clubs were directed by older youth. After being critiqued by judges, two musicals and two skits are selected to go to the WI State Fair in August. Some clubs are now taking their performances to local community organizations for entertainment.



As an initial effort to grow the program, we opened up the stage to allow individual or duet performances by the youth. The youth performed either an instrumental or vocal piece that they selected and practiced on their own. Twenty youth took this opportunity to develop and present their musical skills to judges for critique. The individual/duet performances also gave an opportunity for two more youth to be selected to perform at the State Fair.

In hindsight, much more happened with the individual/duet performances than just growing the program. The youth who participated stated that they learned from the judges what they can improve on for the next time they perform. For example, Isabel played "Yellow Submarine" with her trumpet and learned that she "swoops from notes instead of directly going to them." Leah sang "Cups" and afterward stated that it was completely nerve-racking—yet once she finished performing, it was an amazing feeling of completion. Audience members remarked that they loved the entertainment and were astonished at how well the youth performed.



The 4-H Music and Drama Festival was hosted and emceed by the Sheboygan County 4-H Ambassadors, utilizing their leadership and communication skills to introduce each performance and lead games and activities throughout the day. The Festival was coordinated by a committee of six adult volunteers.

A Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Program study found that children who participate in the 4-H Arts and Communication Programs gain important technical, communication, and teamwork skills, while also increasing their self-esteem and self-confidence. Youth have reported that they have used feedback from the judges to improve their individual performance and creativity skills. They have built good learning habits, and have increased their opportunities to become confident public speakers.



Your county
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Crops & Soils Agent

Jane E. Jensen
Family Living Educator

Sarah J. Tarjeson
4-H Youth
Development Educator

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

Kevin Struck
Growth Management
Educator

~ Vacant ~
Dairy Educator
(50% appointment)

Tina L. Kohlman
Dairy & Livestock Agent
(shared with Fond du Lac)

~ Vacant ~
Nutrition Education
Program Coordinator
- and -
Nutrition Education
Educator
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Ann Herzog
Nancy Meyer
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UW-Extension Sheboygan County March 2015 - IMPACT REPORT

Family Living & Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP)

Jane Jensen, Family Living Educator

Families serve as a powerful economic engine. Building a strong, skilled workforce is a top priority for Wisconsin and most other states. Yet, one of the key elements in building that workforce is often overlooked, according to a UW-Extension family policy researcher. **"Studies show that families are the most important contributor to the development of productive and competent workers,"** says Karen Bogenschneider, family policy specialist with UW-Extension/UW-Madison.

Today's knowledge-based economies call for education and social skills that researchers say are largely shaped by a child's early family life or pre-school education. Through early experiences, children learn hard skills, such as the ability to think and solve problems, and soft skills, such as dependability, discipline, and how to work with others.

Families are a Cornerstone



In one 30-year study, researchers examining just the quality of care children received for the first three-and-a-half years of their life were able to predict with 77% accuracy which children would drop out of school. Families are the cornerstone, especially early in life, for raising responsible children who become caring, committed contributors in a strong democracy and competent workers in a sound economy.

One of the ways UW-Extension can lay the groundwork for tomorrow's workforce is through piloting "Raising a Thinking Child" with Sheboygan County Head Start. The program offers participating parents strategies to guide their children in developing social skills and problem-solving ability. Four to seven-year-old children of parents in the program are better able to think of ways to solve a problem, anticipate the consequences of their actions, and cope with frustration when things don't go their way. These types of critical thinking skills will be essential for a competitive workforce in a global economy.

Jane is also collaborating with local agencies to submit a grant application to develop a local Children & Family Coalition that will focus on the *cradle to career* model to develop a productive workforce. Jane's partners will include United Way, Family Resource Center, Sheboygan County Health & Human Services, and Head Start.

UW-Extension Sheboygan County

Community Growth Management Education

Kevin Struck, Growth Management Educator

Although the Town of Wilson has a population over 3,300 it has had only one small public park, in the Black River area. That began to change in 2012 when the Town asked Kevin to write WDNR and Sheboygan County Stewardship grants that brought in nearly \$70,000 for land and the development of a new park on Moenning Road.

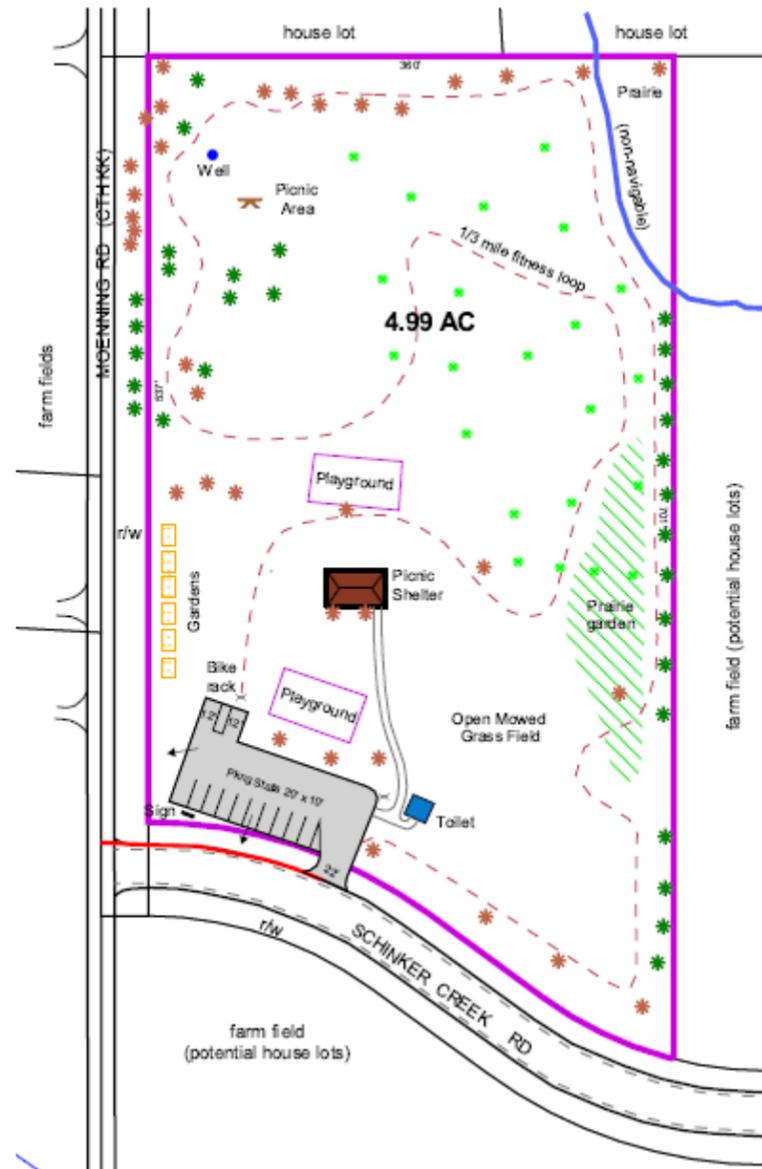
As Kevin wrote the grants he worked closely with the Town's Park & Forestry Commission, repeatedly getting their input and making sure they gained a greater understanding of the grant writing process.

Because Kevin left a template and maps with the Town for future grant applications to further enhance the park property, the Commission was able write new applications in 2013 and 2014, with only minor assistance needed from Kevin. **This is a major goal of UW-Extension programming—to provide assistance that ultimately helps local communities to help themselves.**

The Town was successful in its 2013 and 2014 grant applications and was awarded a total of \$45,786 (including a generous match from Wilson Mutual Insurance Co.) to be used for park improvements.

The Park & Forestry Commission now intends to apply for another grant in 2015. The Commission needed an updated version of the park layout that Kevin had helped design back in 2012. Since this requires rather sophisticated software that the Commission does not own, Kevin was happy to assist the Town once again (see layout at right).

"Very nice, Kevin. Thanks a bunch," wrote Gerry Bertsch, a Commission member.



Latest Schinker Creek Park Site Plan

A Sample of Upcoming UWEX Programs

April 14—Family Caregiver Education/Support Group, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Aging & Disability Resource Center
April 6, 13, 20—Strengthening Families Program 10-14, 5:30 - 8:00 PM, Oostburg Middle School

UW-Extension Sheboygan County

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent/Crops & Soils

Bringing University of Wisconsin Resources to the UW-Extension 2015 Agronomy Day

Sheboygan County UW-Extension develops and delivers the 2015 Agronomy Day Program



The UW-Extension staffs from Sheboygan, Ozaukee and Washington counties sponsored another Agronomy Day on Feb. 19 at the S Pillars Supper Club, Random Lake. Among those listening to industry experts and professors from the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture were (from left) Nathan Casper of InDepth Agronomy (Maunten), Mark Breuing of Sheboygan Falls, and John Risch and Chris Risch, both of Belgium. (Photo: Gary Feider/Random Lake Souder, February 26)

Response to this educational program was excellent with 130 growers and industry professionals in attendance. One hundred percent of those completing the program survey rated the 2015 Agronomy Day Program as either "Excellent" or "Good." One hundred percent completing the survey said they would like the Agronomy Day Program continued in future years.

In addition to hearing industry representatives cover what's new in agricultural products and services, as well as grain market outlooks and strategies for marketing in the coming year, attendees also heard:

Joe Lauer – Department of Agronomy (Corn Specialist) spoke about the agronomic inputs that generate the greatest returns and whether it's feasible to reduce corn inputs without sacrificing yields.

Mike Ballweg – UW-Extension Sheboygan County (Crops & Soils Agent) discussed weed management, specifically waterhemp suspected in area soybean fields.

Thomas Butts & Liz Bosak – Department of Agronomy (Graduate Research Assistant & Research/Outreach Specialist) present information on managing herbicide resistant weed populations.

Bryan Jensen – Integrated Pest Management – UW-Madison covered management guidelines for corn rootworm, and the use of insecticides on Bt-CRW corn.



Local UW-Extension crops and soils agent Mike Ballweg welcomes those attending Agronomy Day. (Photo: Gary Feider/Random Lake Souder, February 26)

A Sample of Upcoming UWEX Programs

March 25—"Choosing the Best of the New Plants Without Overlooking the Best of the Old," by Mark Konlock, Green Bay Botanical Garden - Director of Horticulture, 6:30 PM, UW-Extension, Room 5020-5022 (Sponsored by the Sheboygan County UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers.)