

## **Botany in the Classroom**

By Joyce Waldoch, MGV

Botany in the classroom is one of many programs of the UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Racine and Kenosha Counties. This program began 19 years ago at Olympia Brown Elementary school in Racine. It is led by our own Burt Blomgren of MPLC. During the current school year, it will serve 125 classes with 2,100 student participants in 17 area schools. Those schools include elementary classrooms in 12 Racine Unified District Schools, one special education Middle School, one Kenosha School, the Raymond and Brighton Schools, and St. Edward's School in Racine.

All classes take place during the time allotted for Science classes and are hands-on programs in basic plant and soil science. Students in grades 1 - 4 work on age appropriate, special take home projects with a Master Gardener Volunteer. There are 33 Master Gardener participants in this program and four of them are members of MPLC. This past summer, all students in MPLC Summer Bible School also participated in making terrariums out of recycled soda bottles with the volunteer Master Gardeners. It was a fun time for all.