The Horticulture Society of the University of Wisconsin of River Falls has been involved in many activities over the past school year.

We started the new school year off with the excitement of being able to put up a booth and a 40’ x 20’ display garden at the Midwest Home Show. Our theme was “People need plants and Plants need people.” It was a great opportunity for our society to learn how to create a display for a show and gave us a firsthand look at all of the work and all of the behind the scene things that need to happen in order to put a booth together and to make it a success.

The Horticulture students were in charge of running the booth, it was a great opportunity to talk to people in our industry and make connections.

Next, the Horticulture Society put on our annual Fall Plant Sale. We sell a variety of plants ranging from cacti to Venus flytraps. During this three-day sale, community members, teachers, and students can come and purchase plants to support the Horticulture Society. The next sale that the society put on was our annual Poinsettia sale. The final sale that our society puts on is a Valentine’s Day Sale. For this sale we sell arrangements as well as single flowers for people to give out. This sale is a great opportunity for our members to try their hand at designing bouquets. The flowers from all of the sales that were not purchased were donated to local nursing homes.

Throughout the semesters our society participated in Intramurals. This year we had an indoor volleyball team. Our members have a great time and enjoy interacting in a more relaxed environment.

Our society also participated in MACHS. This year the competition was held in Iowa. Our society had the best overall scores so we were first place overall and one of our members, Jesse Read, was elected as the new treasurer.
Throughout the year, our chapter helps the campus by taking care of the plants in the University Center Building. We are in charge of cleaning the plants and checking them for diseases. We are very involved with the purchasing and placement of the plants in the University Center as well. This gives the society a chance to experience what it is like to do interior plant-scapes, which is an area of the horticulture industry that is expanding quickly.

In the spring semester we usually try to use our funds from the plant sales for an educational experience. This year, we had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Pennsylvania and Washington D.C. We visited Longwood Gardens where a convention was being held. We listened to many speakers and also received an unforgettable tour of the facility from one of the employees that has worked there for over 20 years.

After our day at Longwood Gardens, we visited a mushroom farm and the National Arboretum. The whole group that went on the spring trip getting ready to tour the mushroom farm.

The last two days of our trip were spent in Washington D.C. where we got a tour of the National Botanical Gardens, the U.S. Capitol, and then we were given time to see the sights of Washington D.C.

Overall, the 2010-2011 school year was a great success. We look forward to the following year and hope to gain new members and continue educating ourselves through the Horticulture Society.