



MAMGA Newsletter

April 2023

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(Photo by Percy Mather: Blossoms in the UW
Arboretum 2022)

President's Column

by Ed Meachen

For the first time, April starts the year for MAMGA. The Annual Meeting actually begins the new year because members elect a new board, approve changes to the bylaws, and reflect on the work we've done in the previous calendar year. Reporting volunteer and continuing education hours is certainly a calendar year thing, but onboarding and earning certification as a master gardener is a process that concludes March 31st, and so, the year actually begins April 1st. And this year, the annual meeting on Earth Day rings in our new year. There are members departing the board and new members coming on.

As a veteran now of 10 years on the board and 9 in the role of president, I want to tell you about some of the things I've learned over the past decade. I've learned that MAMGA has been devoted to creating a social community focused on helping Lisa Johnson and Extension bring the science of horticulture to the public through volunteering. I've learned that so many in our community of gardeners have had astonishing and fulfilling careers, and bring leadership and giving to our association and to Extension. I've learned that it's possible to bring all these talents together to do wonderful things for our community. Many of our outstanding gardeners have not served on the board—and that's as it should be—but I've found that the board has the talent to enhance our network and guide our gardening community, our association, to do remarkable things we could never have done individually.

Three outstanding members are leaving the board on April 22nd, but not leaving MAMGA. Not leaving by a long shot. Mary Collet has been a board member for four years. She'll be leaving the board, but will continue to lead our grant program. She and her grant committee will be giving grants to eleven community, school, and public gardens in 2023. Percy Mather, who has served on the board for eight years and managed our newsletter for seven of those years will be leaving the board. She will continue to work on the newsletter with the help of other members. And Art De Smet, our treasurer for the last eight years, the longest serving treasurer in our history, will be leaving the board. We will miss them, but they will continue to support MAMGA and they'll only be a telephone call away.

Please come to the annual meeting to wish them well, and to welcome new board members who will continue the history of this wonderful gardening association.

Register for the annual meeting at

<https://www.mamgawi.org/event-registration/2022-virtual-78tmh>

It often happens that in March we have just had the annual meeting or we are very close to having it. Planning was pretty much over by now. As I mentioned in the February newsletter, we are having our first ever April annual meeting. This required a change in the bylaws that we made at last year's meeting. We are just now making annual meeting preparations. **The Web page for the annual meeting registration is now available.** Registration this year is \$20 for MAMGA members, and if you wish to invite someone, \$25 for a guest. If you haven't renewed your MAMGA membership for 2023 you can do that at the same time. Please register at: [mamgawi.org](https://www.mamgawi.org)

The annual meeting is on Earth Day, Saturday April 22nd. That means it will be a splendid morning. We will be at the Goodman Community Center in the Brassworks building, 214

Waubesa Street.

One more thing. Remember how much fun the silent auction was when our meetings were in person, and we could bid on very nice garden and other gifts, and have a chance to chat with each other before the program got started? Well, we've decided to do the silent auction again. What wonderful things do you have that you'd be willing to give to MAMGA for the silent auction? Please consider helping us with garden treasures. If you have something please send me an email. I will send it on to the manager of the silent auction.

Contact Ed Meachen at willismeachen@gmail.com.

Calendar Events

April 1 Saturday 1 – 2:30pm Rodney Denu talks about Roadside Vegetable Stands at the West Ag Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road. Rodney owned Brookside Gardens in Mazomanie. Register here to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/roadside-veggie-stands-tickets-566981385587>

April 4 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday meets at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Inland Way, Monona, just off Bridge Road where it crosses the Yahara River. We have a separate room for our group. Let Dana Warren know if you plan to attend or just turn up. dwarren1943@gmail.com or djwarren5703@hotmail.com

April 5 3 – 5pm Wednesday Dedication of the mural at the Lussier Family Heritage Center Local artist Sonya Sankaran created a 400 sq. ft. depiction of wetlands and prairie plants, many of which have been planted by MAMGA volunteers who worked on this signature project site.

April 13 Thursday Help our volunteers keep on schedule. This is the last day to register for the Membership Meeting.

April 22 Saturday 8:30 am – noon MAMGA Annual Membership meeting at the Goodman Center Brassworks building, 214 Waubesa Street. Register on [the MAMGA website](#). Pastries, coffee, election of Board members, silent auction, information about volunteer sites, fellowship and speaker Dr. Stanley Temple round out this annual get together.

Week of April 24 – First shipment of plants for the Lussier prairie. If you are interested in helping, send an email to percy.mather@gmail.com and you'll notified when they arrive.

May 17 10AM Lynden Sculpture Tour, Lynden Sculpture Gardens, River Hills, WI. Come tour the amazing grounds of the Bradley family with over 70 sculptures along with a spectacular Bonsai exhibit on a 40-acre site. The Gardens are located at 2145 West Brown Deer Road in Milwaukee. Watch for the email announcement and register early. This docent-led event is limited to 35 attendees.

May 20 10 AM. Mail Order Plant Shopping. Oakwood Village West Auditorium. Working together, MAMGA and the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society are pleased to bring our memberships a live presentation by Ed Lyon. Ed is the director of Reiman Gardens at Iowa

State University in Ames, Iowa, and was formerly the director of Allen Centennial Gardens. The program will highlight how to simplify the process of purchasing plants online. This event will be held in the auditorium at Oakwood Village West. MAMGA members will be in the parking lot to direct attendees to the closest available parking space. Carpooling is recommended. This event will not be recorded. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mail-order-plant-shopping-tickets-567039810337>

May 24 Wednesday Second shipment of plants for the Lussier prairie. If you are interested in getting them settled, send an email to percy.mather@gmail.com and you'll notified when we'll plant them.

May 31 10 AM. Foraging for health, nourishment and fun! Moonwise Herbs in Stoughton. Join 30-year veteran herbalist and forager Linda Conroy for a walk on the wild side. We will learn about wild plants that can be used for food and medicine. Register at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foraging-for-health-nourishment-and-fun-tickets-597400048627>. This event costs \$7 and is limited to 20.

We will head into Stoughton after the class to have some social time together during lunch. We will dine at Sugar and Spice Eatery, 317 Nora Rd, Stoughton. Lunch is not included in the \$7 fee.

MAMGA Board Candidates

One of the important items of business at the annual meeting is the election of members of MAMGA's governing board. Candidates have provided statements and photos in order to introduce themselves to the membership.



Emigh Cannaday

Emigh [pronounced: Amy] has been caring for plants ever since she was old enough to help pick the family garden. She received a ficus tree as a birthday gift back in 1994 and her tree (named Ben) has traveled over 5000 miles

before settling in Madison.

Emigh is passionate about pollinator plants, low-maintenance perennials, and she has over 150 houseplants that keep her busy during the long Wisconsin winters. As a home cook, her most recent plant experiment was to successfully grow saffron crocus.

She became a Master Gardener in 2020 and joined the Dane County Master Gardener Plant Sale Committee in 2022. She runs a small independent publishing company and is excited to bring her wide range of interests and skills to MAMGA.

Hello! My name is **B'Ann Gabelt**. I have been a MGV since 2013, graduating from the UW Extension Dane County program when in person training was still being done! I retired after 30+ years in ophthalmology research at UW, and was looking for something to get me outside and more involved in the community. I did not come into the program with much of a background in horticulture aside from the usual house plants and perennial borders. However, I was eager to learn and have tried to engage in a variety of volunteer activities to broaden my knowledge base.

After completing the PHA training in 2013, I have been a regular on the horticulture helpline where I especially like being able to look up information if I don't know the answer off the top of my head. I was a co-leader at the Fitchburg Farmer's market Ask-a-Master-Gardener table until 2020 when the pandemic shut things down.

In 2022 I resumed participating in the AAMG booth at the Westside farmers' market. I enjoy being challenged to answer questions and provide educational resources to the public. Other volunteer activities include gardening activities at Allen Centennial Garden on the UW campus, MOM food pantry garden, the Arboretum Native Plant garden, West Madison Ag Research station and the MAMGA signature project prairie restoration. For the last several years I have been starting native plants, using the winter-sowing technique, which are for school and community projects. All of these provided varied horticultural educational experiences as well.



In the past, I attended 4 of the state WIMGA conferences and the international MGV conference in PA in 2019. I have also gone on the Costa Rica and New Zealand trips advertised in the WIMGA newsletter.

As a member of the MAMGA Program Committee for the last several years, I have contributed ideas and have arranged some of the educational opportunities I hope many of you have enjoyed

I have been a member of the MAMGA board and executive committee as the local WIMGA representative for the past 4 years. The role of the WIMGA representative is still evolving after the recent changes in the Extension Master Gardener program. I would like to continue in this role while changes are ongoing.

Karen Allenstein

I have a passion for everything relating to plants and gardening. After retirement in 2014, I completed my MGCV training with my lifelong friend, Jane Graham. As new MGCVs, Jane and I put in many volunteer hours in the Teaching Garden, working with other MGCVs and students. I fell in love with the gardens and enjoy working with Lisa Johnson. In 2016 we initiated an Adopt a-Garden program to mobilize MGCVs into teams dedicated to maintaining individual beds within the Teaching Garden. By focusing MGCV and student teams on specific beds, we were able to increase overall participation in maintaining the garden and develop a sense of ownership and accomplishment in the process.



The program was a success and continues to date.

With help from other MGCVs and Marc Nielsen ('Special Ops' guy at the Teaching Garden), a number of projects were implemented over the years to promote the garden and improve the visitor's experience.

Projects include designing and installing 12 garden area signs and 2 map signs to welcome visitors to the garden; installing various paver, stone, and gravel pathways throughout the garden; creating a Teaching Garden web page and Facebook page; designing a Teaching Garden promotional handout; installing drip irrigation system in the Edibles Garden; raising money to install a new 18x36 ft greenhouse; etc. The new greenhouse was constructed in the fall of 2022.

I thoroughly enjoy working with and learning from other MGCVs to maintain the Teaching Garden. As I am working at the garden, I am often rewarded by compliments from Extension employees and visitors about the beauty of the gardens. I am interested in continuing to serve on the MAMGA Board of Directors to support the work of MGCVs in Dane County. MGCVs are the best! I believe my organizational skills, business background and passion for gardening & horticulture are an asset to the board.

Hello! My name is **Nancy Kieraldo** and I have been a MAMGA member since graduating from the Master Gardener program in 2016. My MAMGA membership has allowed me to stay connected with fellow Dane County gardeners and provided me valuable tours, training and gardening expertise. I'd like to give back to this great community by serving on the MAMGA board by offering my strengths in visioning, organization, planning and communication skills, I hope that my interest in natural landscapes and connections I've made in school, community and pantry gardens in Dane County can help guide the MAMGA board toward continuing the

mission of supporting master gardeners through sustainable garden projects and valuable educational opportunities.

We need donations for MAMGA's Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting

As you are Spring cleaning, look for items with gardening interest that you may have grown tired of yet would be valuable to a fellow gardener. These items, as well as newly purchased or newly made will be accepted for the Silent Auction at our Annual Meeting.

What are we looking for?

- Items should be of interest to gardeners
- Store bought or handmade
- Functional or decorative or both
- Gardening books, art, tools, etc.



Saturday April 22, 2023 Goodman Community Center—Brassworks
The auction starts at 8:30. Payment by check or cash please.
The proceeds will be used for MAMGA grants to community gardens.
To donate, please contact:
(east side) Ritchie Rheume, krheume@charter.net, 608-347-1647
(west side) Diane Tabak, Itaba@aol.com, 608-692-0887
Items will be collected until April 15.

Plant Sale on Sunday May 21

Mark your calendars for the Dane County Master Gardener Plant Sale on Sunday, May 21st from 11 am to 3 pm at the Dane County/UW Extension Office parking lot at 5201 Fen Oak Drive. The sale will include hundreds of perennials for shade or sun, vegetable, herb and annual flower starts, house plants and more! Follow us on Facebook for updates on the sale <https://www.facebook.com/uwexteachinggarden/> . A week before the sale you can access our 2023 Plant Sale Inventory on the plant sale web page <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/plant-sale>. We would appreciate if you would share the link to our plant sale web page with your friends.

If you don't have jumping worms in your yard, we hope you will consider donating perennials or hosting a "dig". For a list of desired perennials and those we cannot accept, please email Karen Allenstein at kallenstein@charter.net. You can also contribute vegetables, herbs, annual flowers started in pots, and house plants. For all contributions, please inform Karen of the varieties and quantities you plan to contribute as soon as you have an estimate. If you want to help with digging up, potting, and labeling perennials for the plant sale or working at the Plant Sale, please email Karen. She will send you an e-mail invitation from www.signup.com.

Don't forget, your hours spent in these activities count towards your volunteer service requirements for this year. If you have any questions on how to contribute plants for this event, feel free to contact Karen. Thanks for all your support!

MAMGA Board Minutes - Draft

3:00 March 13, 2023

UW Extension 5201 Fen Oak Dr. Madison, WI

(EIN 39-1694554)

Board Members Present: Karen Allenstein, Mary Collet, Mary Davidson, Art De Smet, B'Ann Gabelt, Judi Janowski, Ed Meachen, Barbara Park, Dennis Tande, Carol Troyer-Shank **Absent:** Percy Mather

Also Present: Lisa Johnson, Emigh Cannaday

Review of January Minutes Moved by Mary D. and seconded by Mary C. Approved.

Garden Grants Because of the committee's excellent outreach and word of mouth, we are excited about the 11 grant applications. Mary C. sent a synopsis of the projects. Barb moved to add an additional \$1,000 to fund/partially fund the requests. Seconded by Art. Motion carried. The maximum per grant is \$500. Ed suggested a target for future funding from our surplus. Mary C. will continue to serve on the committee, even though she is retiring from the Board.

Signature Project Carol is meeting this week with Dane County Parks staff to discuss signage at the Lussier Center. Signage will be more prominent and permanent. There

may be some expense for MAMGA. In addition to the \$500 in our budget, Percy has donated \$400 for plants. Carol and Percy will check about applying for a WIMGA grant and report back to the Board.

Board Candidates Five positions are up for election. Karen and B'Ann will be returning. Two members have expressed interest, leaving one opening at this time. Karen will generate a list of possible candidates and forward to Ed.

Membership Current membership is down about 20 members from last year. Karen has followed up with emails and phone calls. Lisa is hosting two Open Houses for new graduates. Ed will attend to promote MAMGA.

Budget Art reports that we are doing well. Judi has reviewed the accounts and confirmed their accuracy. The sale of logo merchandise produced a profit of \$600-\$800. Victoria will continue to coordinate ordering and sales.

Annual Meeting Ed, Art and Deb Pienkowski will meet at Goodman Community Center to discuss room set up and necessary equipment. Ed will send separate emails in March and April advertising the Annual Meeting as well as the Silent Auction and Logo merchandise, emphasizing cash/credit card only.

Logo Items Victoria will bring merchandise and set up the display. Karen's husband will help with the brochure listing available items. Art will contact Karen with specific information.

Silent Auction Judi reported a number of donations and will work with the committee to organize the event. A mini bake sale will be part of the auction. There is money in the budget to cover any expenses.

Handouts Ed will create an agenda for the morning as well as the business meeting. He will also create an annual report. The 2023 budget and proposed By-Law changes will be available at the meeting as well as through our web site prior to the meeting.

Volunteer Tables Deb Pienkowski, Judi and team are working with various community groups to advertise Dane County volunteer opportunities.

By-Laws With two additional edits, Ed will send out the corrected version. Carol expressed concern that specific responsibilities such as maintaining the membership list are not assigned to a specific person/committee. The Executive Committee will discuss these jobs, job titles and determine how best to make sure all necessary jobs are done.

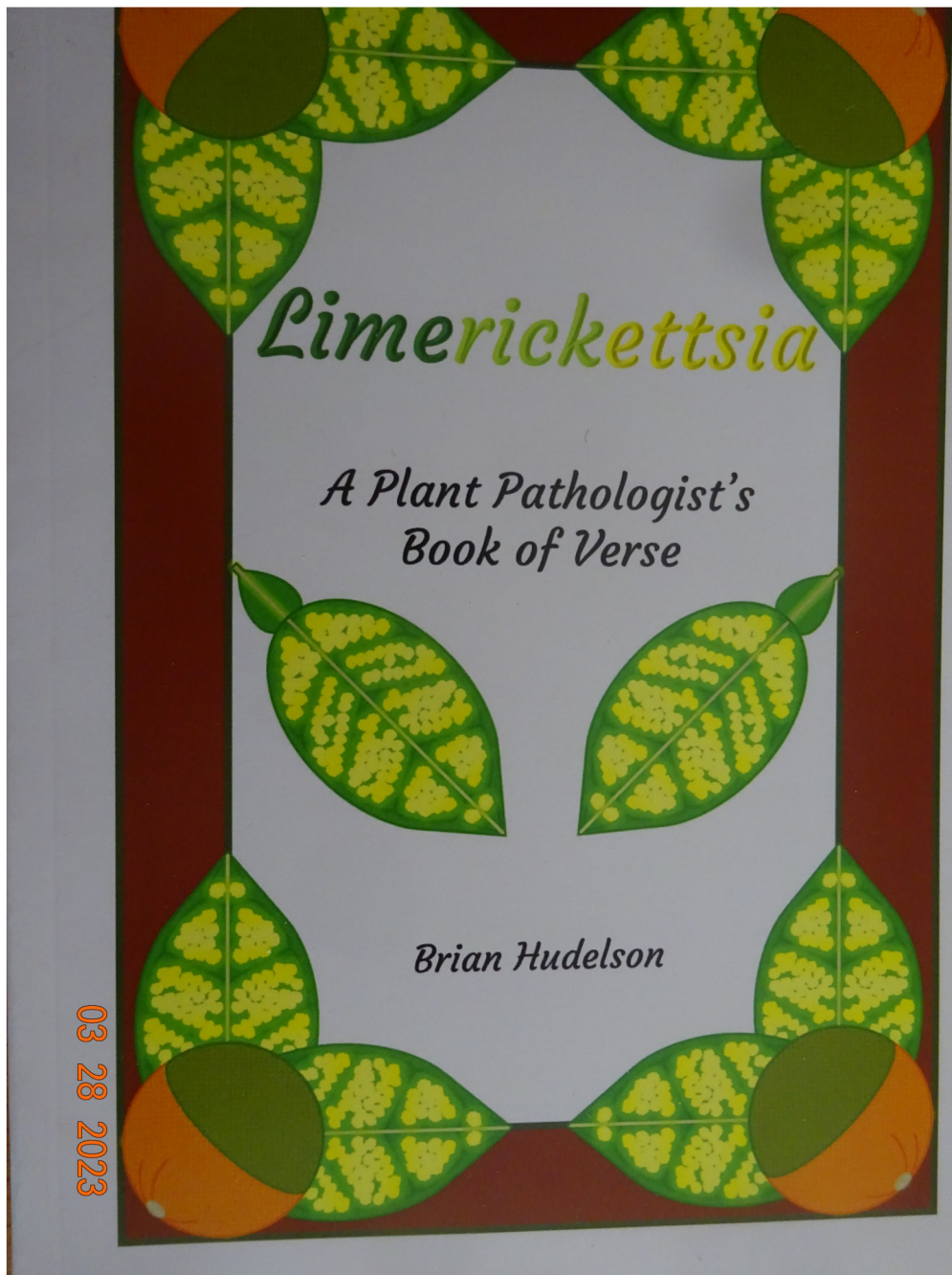
Program Attendance There has been excellent participation. The Kathryn Deery, Lurie Gardens Zoom event in coordination with Allen Centennial Gardens was well attended. There were already suggestions for the 2024 year. One suggestion was the Dane County Heritage Trees, Karen will send the spreadsheet with information.

Executive Board Meeting **NEW LOCATION** Barriques 5957 McKee Road Fitchburg, April 10 - 3:00

NEW DATE for Next Board meeting May 15 - 3:00 at Extension. We will be meeting on the third Monday of every other month.

Recognition A special thank you to Mary C., Art and Percy for their incredible work on the Board of Directors.

Adjourned B'Ann moved, Art seconded. Meeting adjourned



Looking for a blend of humor and plant pathology? Try **Limerickettsia: A Plant Pathologist's Book of Verse** recently published by Brian Hudelson, director of the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic. In 100+ colorful pages, "Dr. Death" covers 50+ plant pathogens, each with a limerick, photos, and a paragraph of information. Here's just one example:

*A tomato ensconced in a pot,
Was never once watered a lot,
Its low calcium rate,
Drove it into a state,
Where it suffered from blossom end rot.*

All proceeds from the book go to support the University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic. The cost is \$26.50. We will have some copies at the Annual Meeting on April 22. If you want to reserve a copy, email percy.mather@gmail.com and we'll reserve one for you. You can pick up and pay for your copy with cash or check payable to UW-PDDC. Then you can chuckle your way through a summary of common plant pathogens.

Seasonal Employment

Hi, my name is Alina Arefeva and I am looking for help with my home garden in Middleton close to the bus stop from approximately mid-February to September/October.

We need help with removing weeds (we can send you the names of typical ones we have) and general maintenance (fertilizing, pruning roses, deadheading, mowing the lawn and trimming the edges, etc.). Depending on when this ad is distributed, we may need help with putting a protected layer of carton boxes and mulch on some of the beds. We are envisioning one 3-hour visit per week on Friday or Sunday morning (for example, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm) that we will pay \$80 dollars for + \$5-10 tips if the work is done very well. As we go, we may need to cancel or reschedule those days when the rain makes yardwork difficult or when we have scheduling conflicts.

If you are interested, please email me at aarefevak@gmail.com with your full name and whether the proposed time works for you; if not, let us know what time would work. Although t

A **variety of jobs** are listed on the Rooted website at: <https://www.rootedwi.org/engage-with-us/careers/>

Volunteer Opportunities

Our Sandburg Elementary students and teachers would love an extra hand with our 3 Sisters (plus sunflowers) garden. Specifically, we are looking for support using and processing our sunflowers and corn. We can also use help clearing out our 4 x 16 ft garden bed. We are flexible if you have some time and skills to share. Contact: Sarah Ann Thomas,, Sandburg Elementary School, 4114 Donald Dr, Madison, WI 53704 sathomas@madison.k12.wi.us (608) 561-3441

(V) **Two projects at the Fitchburg Public Library** located at 5530 Lacy Road.

(1) Develop & maintain a raised bed pollinator garden on the library's south facing patio. Two library staff have gardening experience but we need help assessing the soil condition and

determining the best plants for this bed. This planter has sun exposure all day long and direct water access.

(2) Collaborate with a master gardener to develop children's programming related to the pollinator garden. Please contact: Outreach Librarian Minda Maurer at minda.maurer@fitchburgwi.gov or (608) 729-1791 for more information.

Volunteer Help Needed for April Garden Cleanup

I am one of the AmeriCorp farm to school specialists for the Oregon School District for the 2022-2023 academic year. My fellow farm to school specialist, Rebekah and I are interested in hosting a garden clean up day in April at some of the school gardens in the district. We thought an event like this would be a great way to celebrate Earth Day.

I thought it may be fun to ask master gardeners to volunteer to help with the garden clean up day and potentially give a short education lesson to students about gardening. I am reaching out to see if this is something that may be possible and if so, would you mind providing me information on how you recommend I reach out to master gardeners or put myself in contact with someone who is responsible for posting volunteer activities?

Thank you,

Michelle Naragon, MS, RD
OSD Farm to School Specialist,
Oregon School District,
123 East Grove, Oregon, WI, 53575
manaragon@oregonsd.net



Volunteers Needed!



AmeriCorps Farm to School Specialists at Oregon School District would like your help! We are looking for assistance with the following: garden clean-up and seedling planting. Tentative dates are the end of April into early May, exact dates and times are to be determined by the weather and number of volunteers.

Activities would include:

- Preparing garden beds for planting
- Setting up raised bed platforms in storage
- Educating multilingual student garden leaders on gardening basics
- Assisting in planting seeds and seedlings

If you are interested in volunteering in any of the activities mentioned, please contact one of the Farm to School specialists using the contact details below.

- Rebekah Herring, email: rjherring@oregonsd.net
- Michelle Naragon, email: manaragon@oregonsd.net





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