

MAMGA Newsletter

December 2022



Hanging Garden in Zion National Park

Photo by Lisa Seidman

[Zion National Park](#) in Utah contains many microclimates including these areas where (rain)water that has seeped into the sandstone formations moves downward until it reaches impervious clay layers. It then trickles down the face of the cliff and supports many plants native to Wisconsin, including columbine and maidenhair ferns.

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President's Column

by Ed Meachen

It's a little disconcerting to go from lovely days cleaning out gardens and putting away outdoor furniture to plunging into single digit winter practically overnight. So I won't write about gardening. I will write about MAMGA.

We are looking at transitions in 2023. Many of our board members have been serving for four, six or even eight years, a long time for a small organization. We hate to lose these members, but we understand the need to usher in new board members with different talents. We have three board positions to fill. So we will have eight of our eleven board members back in 2023. One of those positions that will be vacant is that of treasurer. Art De Smet, our current treasurer, has been doing the job for eight years, and in that time he has created a "template" of all the responsibilities of the treasurer. This template will make the job so much easier for the next treasurer than it was for Art when he started in 2015. To make it even easier, Art has agreed to support a new treasurer throughout the 2023 year.

If you have any background whatever in doing finances, please consider running for the board. It is a very important role for our association. The board meets every other month (6 meetings) each year. The board's executive committee meets an additional six times (for a total of 12 meetings each year). The treasurer is a member of the executive committee.

To have a really vibrant and healthy association, MAMGA needs members to serve on the board. Please consider these volunteer hours (usually at least 12 per year) as some of the most important volunteer hours you can have. They count towards certification!

Let me know if you are interested in serving on the board—starting in May, 2023. Email me at: willismeachen@gmail.com. I will give you a call to discuss what's involved.

Membership Renewal. If you haven't already renewed your MAMGA membership, do it now while you are thinking about it and avoid feelings of guilt and extra postage and effort that are needed to remind people late in December & January. If you renew by mid-December, you'll receive your membership card which gives you discounts at a number of local businesses plus a list of the 2023 programs.

MGVs need to report their volunteer (24 hrs) and continuing education hours (10) on the online reporting system to keep MGV certification current. You can be a member of MAMGA regardless of your MGV certification status.

Calendar Events

December 1 Thursday 6:30pm via Zoom WIMGA Annual Meeting. WIMGA members should have received at least two notifications via email.

December 6 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday meets at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Metropolitan Lane, 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 dwarren1943@gmail.com or djwarren5307@hotmail.com

Remember that the MAMGA grant application period is now open and remains open until March 1, 2023. See the [MAMGA website](#) for information and the grant application forms.

December 7 Wednesday 1 – 3pm Get help entering your hours into the Online Reporting System at the **Goodman Library**. Bring a laptop if you have one. Contact Carol Troyer-Shank ctshank2gm@gmail.com or via text to 608-469-2678. Please include a list of the organizations where you've volunteered. Reply by December 2 if possible. If you can't make it that day, contact Carol to set up another session. See the email that was sent to all members. The deadline for submitting your hours has been extended to Monday, January 9.

Green Thumb Series Wraps Up

Register at <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/fall2022series/> for any of the remaining classes:

December 5 Monday 6-8 pm Annuals (Lisa Johnson)

December 8 Thursday 6-8 pm Native Plants and Pollinators (Lisa Johnson)

January 9 Monday 4 – 6pm MAMGA Board meets via Zoom. Contact Ed Meachen at willismeachen@gmail.com if you wish to participate but are not a Board member.

January 9 Monday midnight is the extended deadline for submitting MGV volunteer and continuing education hours.

MAMGA Board Minutes (Draft)

3:00 November 7, 2022
5201 Fen Oak Dr. Madison, WI
(EIN 39-1694554)

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

Absent: Eugenia Beecher

Also Present: Lisa Johnson

Review of September minutes Revised that Karen will serve as interim treasurer until a full time treasurer is approved. Karen and Art will meet in early 2023 to discuss job responsibilities. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report Art sent a budget update and reported that finances look fine. He will present a 2023 budget to the Board at the January meeting. For 2023 budgeting purposes, the Board recommended potential income of \$500 for Silent Auction and \$100 for MAMGA merchandise. Art will check with Victoria about current logo inventory. It was estimated that approximately 90 members will attend the Annual Meeting. Art is exploring investing some of MAMGA's assets with Fidelity Investments for higher yielding CDs and Treasuries than available at Summit Credit Union.

Calendar Changes The January 9 Board meeting will be a Zoom meeting, starting at 4:00. Additional Board meetings are: March 13 - 3:00, May 8 - 3:00. The May meeting will be the first for new Board members. Ed and Dennis will do a new member orientation April 26. Ed will send a complete 2023 meeting calendar.

Membership The current renewals are almost equal to last year. Donations are \$1,070. Ed will send another renewal reminder the week of November 16. Karen will update the membership list on the 16th.

New Board Candidates Ed has two candidates for the three open positions. Send any possible candidate names to Ed. Mary will continue to head the Grants Committee.

Newsletter/Website Percy provided a tutorial sheet for editing the newsletter and website. She conducted a Zoom session with Art, Ed and Dennis. If editing, please use caution. Percy will check with Emily for backup and security. Deb P. does website program updates and Eventbrite. Ed does Mailchimp Eventbrite notices. Victoria continues with Facebook. Percy asked for additional articles/photos from Board members, especially about MAMGA programs. B'Ann suggested that the person in charge of the program submit a "What Did I Miss?" paragraph. Send Percy a PDF or Word document along with a JPEG. Set up a time with Percy if you need help.

There was also a discussion of when to terminate newsletter emails to non-renewing members. Janie can easily modify mailing lists to target specific categories. Ed will remind Janie to check that **U** and **D** are not included in mailings.

By-Laws Ed, Bonnie and Dennis will update the by-laws on November 17. WIMGA has proposed updates to their by-laws, stating categories for membership. MAMGA does not have access to member completion of volunteer/education hours. We will not change our by-laws to reflect WIMGA's by-laws.

Grants Mary sent a summary of 2022 grant updates. Olbrich still needs to submit their report about plant and cart purchases. Mary has expanded the outreach list and has sent a first notice.

Green Thumb Tuesday The new venue, Breakwater, worked well. Ed will contact the restaurant to remind them on next month's meeting.

2023 Programs The list is complete, with a few loose ends. An email will be sent in December to announce the early January event. A paper copy will be mailed in January along with membership cards.

Next Board meeting January 9, 4:00 by Zoom

Free Tree!

A spruce tree (variety unknown) in the Teaching Garden needs to be removed since it is growing too close to a neighboring tree. If you know of a non-profit organization that would be interested in a free Christmas tree please email Karen Allenstein (kallenstein@charter.net) to arrange a time to cut it down. The tree is approximately 8 feet tall and 6 feet wide. Happy Holidays!



These projects were funded by MAMGA Grants.
Final Reports: 2022 MAMGA Grants
submitted by Mary Collet

Caneel Corner Conservancy

Received two grants, for \$260 and \$215 (total \$475). Because the initial grant was under \$500, gardeners were given the opportunity to apply for an addendum. The goal was to convert a weedy corner in the Middleton Ridge Neighborhood to a conservancy. Funds were used to purchase a soil testing kit, three dogwood trees, a St. John's Wort shrub, 19 native plants, and zinc plant markers. Markers were installed for the sake of educating the community. In addition, photos and information about the plants were posted on the Caneel Corner Facebook page. The site includes a Little Library with gardening books.

MAMGA received the following email in August:

Once again, on behalf of all of us here in Misty Valley, our thanks to you and MAMGA colleagues for the additional funds from your generous 2022 grant. We received the check and have earmarked the funds as Dawn outlined for additional perennials and permanent metal plant markers.

It was a pleasure meeting you, Mary, when you visited the Caneel Corner Conservancy (CCC) earlier this year. We very much appreciate the time you took to visit and chat with us. We have received so many positive comments about how the CCC space has been greatly improved this year! We'll continue to keep you posted on our progress.

Thanks again, Mary, Arthur and MAMGA colleagues for your support.

Sun Prairie Community Garden Organization

The goal of the \$500 grant was to improve the fertility and friability of soil by providing fertilizer packets to interested gardeners. Funds were used to buy fertilizer, a soil test, and compost. At the end of the growing season, compost was added to all the plots; the soil is to be tested before the year is out (no results as of the final report). Anecdotal reports from several gardeners have indicated that applying fertilizer improved the yield and quality of their vegetables.

Mt. Horeb Area Community Garden

The goal of the \$500 grant was to improve the infrastructure of the community garden. Funds were used for indoor and outdoor bulletin boards, hanging rails for tools and hoses, and mulching straw. Bulletin boards have been used to announce events (e.g., sign-ups for harvesting asparagus), post information (e.g., how to manage invasive weeds), and post dates for work days. The hanging rails for tools and hoses have improved safety. The mulch has helped to reduce weeds and will provide insulation for fruiting plants during the winter.

Olbrich Gardens

The \$500 grant was to be used to purchase native plants, in support of Olbrich's goal of achieving an outdoor plant composition of at least 70% native plants. At his request, I have "nudged" the grant applicant Jake Immel for a final report and have yet to receive it. I will continue to nudge.

What I'm Reading

by Dennis Tande

Planting in a Post-Wild World - Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes

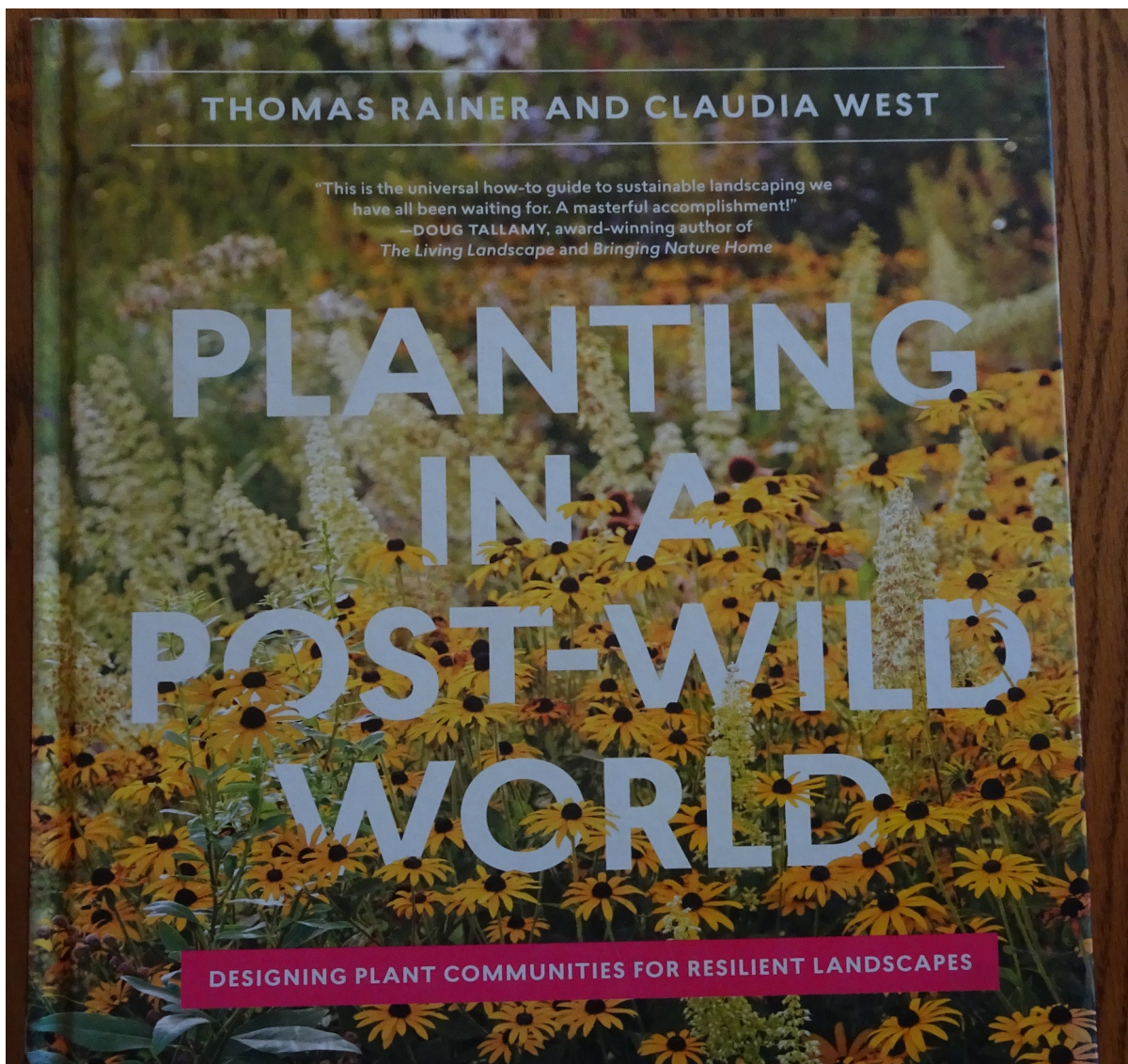
by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West

This is the perfect book to curl up with on the couch. look at the incredible photos and think

about next season. Chapters include Principles of Designed Plant Communities, Inspiration of the Wild, Design Process, and Creating and Managing a Plant Community.

The authors emphasize that our front-line should be our backyards, medians, and parking lots. We should seek nature in the midst of cities with their vast potential for plant interactions, resilient planting and then work with natural tendencies. We should link nature to our landscapes with naturally occurring plant communities, not just pristine native environments. Our gardens should enrich us aesthetically and emotionally. The book includes numerous charts and detailed descriptions for grasslands, woodlands/shrublands, and forests. They always emphasize management, not maintenance.

The book is available at the Madison Public Library.



Continuing Education Opportunities

From Lisa Johnson:

Each month in 2023, the UW-Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic will sponsor a free Zoom presentation on a plant disease-related topic. Check out <https://pddc.wisc.edu/2023-pddc-plant-disease-talks/> for descriptions and previews of the talks. There are links on the page to register for the talks as well. If you have questions about the talks, feel free to contact the clinic at (608) 262-2863 or pddc@wisc.edu. These classes qualify for your 10 needed continuing ed hours for MG certification.

Volunteer (V) Opportunities are also listed on the MAMGA website under [Resources](#). MAMGA lists that information as a courtesy to our local organizations, businesses & employers. Feel free to pass this information to anyone who might be interested.

Our Sandburg Elementary students and teachers would love an extra hand this fall with our 3 Sisters (plus sunflowers) garden. Specifically, we are looking for support using and processing our sunflowers and corn. We are thinking of making tea, roasting seeds, planting microgreens, drying and saving stalks from the sunflowers, and drying, saving and cooking with our corn. Later on, we can also use help clearing out our 4 x 16 ft garden bed and preparing it for the winter. Our school day is from 9 to 4 and late afternoons often work well, but we can be 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.