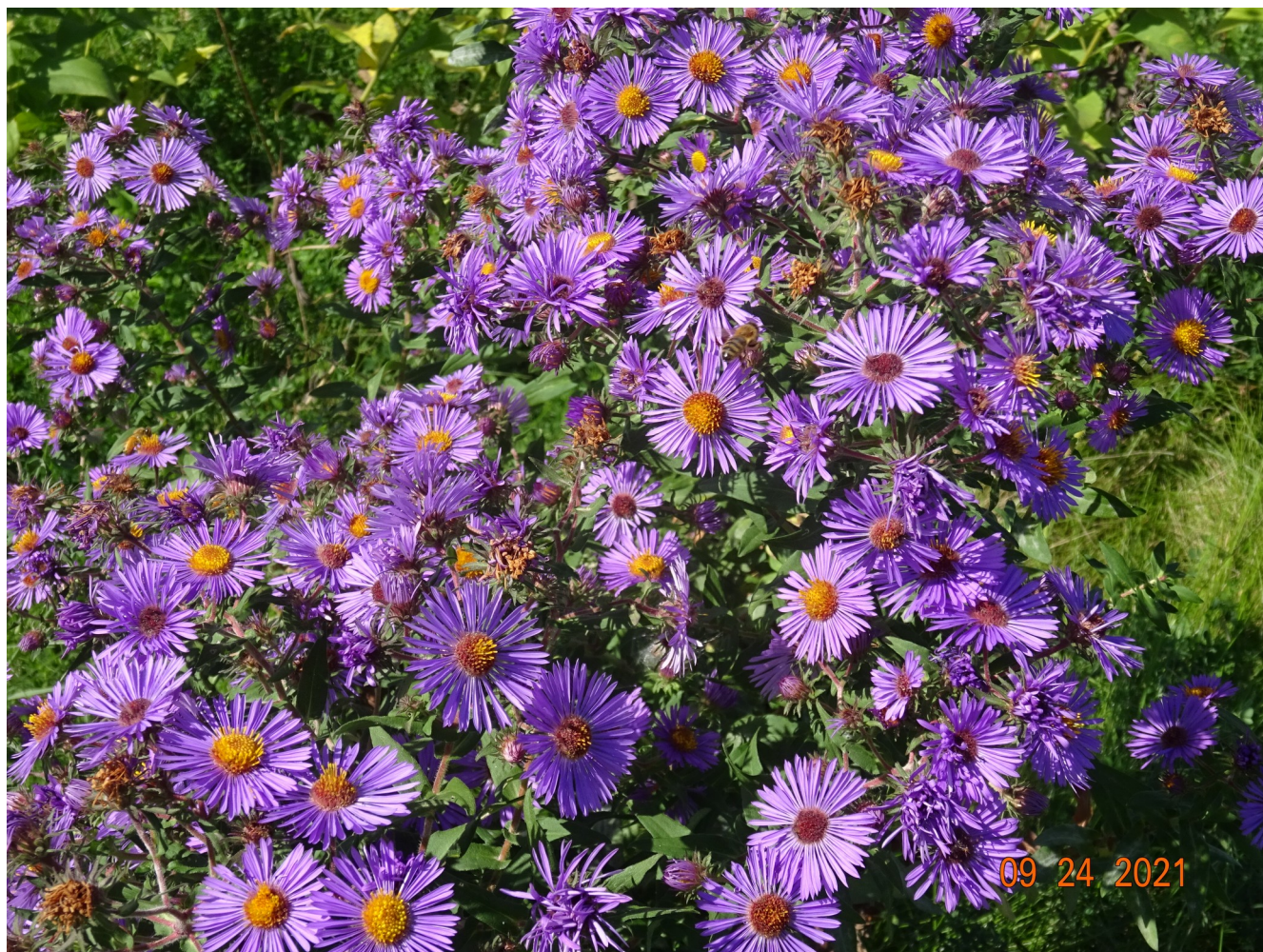


# MAMGA Newsletter

December 2021

Photo by Percy Mather



New England aster at the Lussier prairie

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**Please note: MAMGA Membership cards will be mailed in January 2022. The January issue of the MAMGA newsletter will be emailed before January 7 rather than on the first of the month.**

## President's Message

by Ed Meachen

I have a couple of thoughts for everyone as we enter the last month of the year. Before I get to those I want to remind all of you who haven't renewed to [go to our website](#) and do your

renewal before you forget. It will help us in our end of the year budget building for 2022. You can renew by credit card or print a paper copy of the renewal form and mail your check to our Post Office Box.

The first thought is about covid and our annual meeting. I'm sure you're all following the upward trajectory of the delta variant in Wisconsin, now joined by the omicron variant. Will it subside before the end of February, or will the next variant prove to be even worse and cause infections to increase again? I am very committed to having an in-person annual meeting in late February, but I am also aware that many of you may be averse to public gatherings. The Executive Committee of the Board (Art DeSmet, Dennis Tande, Judi Janowski, B'Ann Gabelt, and me) will be taking up the issue of the annual meeting later this month, and the full board will be discussing it further in their January meeting. Should we do in-person, should we do virtual, should we do a hybrid of both in-person and virtual? Should we require everyone who attends to be fully vaccinated? Should "fully vaccinated" include the booster shot or not? If we do in-person should we have a breakfast or not, a silent auction?

We will likely do a membership survey later this month. If we do, I will send out an email letter to everyone with a link to the survey and ask you to respond. That should really help us refine what sort of annual meeting we'll have.

The second thought is about the new method of becoming a master gardener—doing "on-boarding" between the beginning of January and the end of March. We would like to invite the newly approved master gardeners to our annual meeting starting in 2023, but we won't know who they are until after March 31st. Our MAMGA bylaws require us to hold our annual meeting before March 31st. Perhaps we should change our bylaws to hold our annual meeting before April 30th. This would have some repercussions, which I won't go into here. But it should allow us to send invitations to all the new master gardeners, and give us an opportunity to welcome them into our association. We have a small working group addressing this issue. We might be coming to you with some bylaw changes that need a membership vote at the February meeting.

Finally, I hope you find the time to enter your continuing education programs for 2021 into the MGCV reporting database. If you've done volunteer work this year you might want to enter that as well, but it is not required.

I hope you all have a wonderful...and healthy...holiday season. See you in the new year.

## Election of MAMGA Board Members in February 2022

Interested in how MAMGA functions? Consider running for a seat on MAMGA's Board. Board members are elected at the annual membership meeting and make the decisions for

the organization for two years. Check past issues of the newsletter to read the minutes of Board meetings. The Board meets six times a year. Anyone wishing to experience a virtual Board meeting can contact Ed Meachen ([willismeachen@gmail.com](mailto:willismeachen@gmail.com)) for information on joining the January Zoom meeting. Candidates should submit a short biography that includes experiences that qualify them for Board membership and their interest in gardening. The biographies will be published in the January and February newsletters. See [the February 2021 newsletter](#) for examples. Currently, Board members must be certified MGVs.

## Calendar Events

**December 7 Tuesday 12:30 pm – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday** Monona Garden Restaurant, 6501 Bridge Road, Monona. Please contact Dana Warren if you plan to attend. She will contact the restaurant with the number of place settings needed. Dana's phones are 833-5703 and 843-7061. Bring a mask just in case...

**January 1, 2022 Candidates for the MAMGA Board should submit a biography to [percy.mather@gmail.com](mailto:percy.mather@gmail.com) for inclusion in the January & February newsletters.**

**January 4 Tuesday 12:30 pm – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday** Monona Garden Restaurant, 6501 Bridge Road, Monona. Please contact Dana Warren if you plan to attend. She will contact the restaurant with the number of place settings needed. Dana's phones are 833-5703 and 843-7061. Bring a mask just in case...

**December through February** – Complete a MAMGA Service Grant Application  
MAMGA members are encouraged to sponsor a grant application to be used by eligible organizations such as school gardens and non-profit community gardens. Grants of up to \$500 are intended for gardening or horticultural projects. See the [MAMGA Grant website pages](#) for more information and the application in either Word or pdf versions. The application is due by March 4, 2022.

Here is a portion of the grant announcement: The purpose of these grants is to help support school garden projects and nonprofit community-based garden projects located within Dane County. The project must be sponsored by a MAMGA Master Gardener\* and be affiliated with a school or a nonprofit organization. MAMGA grants may not be used to benefit individual home gardens or private businesses.

Individual grant applications may request up to \$500. Grant funds may be used for seeds, plants, fertilizer, mulch, tools, information and education of students and the community, and garden infrastructure, but not for paid labor.

Given the pandemic situation, MAMGA will also support innovative and on-line gardening projects. Applicants must follow all state, local and school district policies regarding social distancing during the course of completing a project.

## MAMGA Board Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

4 pm November 8, 2021

Zoom

**Board Members Present:** Karen Allenstein, Mary Collet, Art De Smet, Judi Janowski, Sally Kefer, Percy Mather, Ed Meachen, Victoria Robertson (recorder), Dana Warren **Also Present:** Lisa Johnson **Absent:** B'Ann Gabelt, Dennis Tande

1. **Review of September 13, 2021 board minutes:** Moved by Dana Warren and seconded by Judy Janowski. Minutes were approved as written.
2. **Report of Nominating Committee for 2022 board members:** Sally Kefer and Dana Warren will be leaving the board at the end of their term. The committee has recruited two candidates to stand for their positions. They will also make an announcement in the newsletter to let other interested members know how to apply.  
**Proposal to revise by-laws:** Proposal will allow a MAMGA member not currently certified to serve on the board
3. **Treasurer's Report:** 2021 deficit will likely only be \$1000 - \$2000, rather than the \$3,000 that was budgeted.
4. **Community Grants update and timeline for 2022:** Sally Kefer and Mary Collet are currently working together to finish the reports for 2021 and establish the timeline for 2022. Sally will be stepping down as chair of this committee at the end of the year. Mary will be the new chair. The 2021 grants are nearly finished and the announcements for 2022 will begin soon. The 2022 application period will be between Dec 1, 2021, and March 4, 2022. Grants will still need a member sponsor, but that member will not need to be certified.
5. **Annual Meeting Options:**

The room is reserved and Speaker is scheduled, but deposit to caterer is not due until early January. We will try for a hybrid meeting with in-person and zoom attendees. Those attending by zoom will be able to vote by zoom poll.

Proof of vaccination will be required for those attending in person.

Registration is due in early February.

There will an introduction of 2019 and 2020 grads who were unable to have a graduation ceremony due to Covid restrictions.

There was a discussion about flipping the Spring Annual Meeting and Fall Graduation going forward, but doing so would mean a significant revision of the by-laws.

6. **MGV Graduation 2022:** Lisa will not have the list of those who have completed the onboarding process for 2021 until after 3/31/2022, so we will be unable to welcome them at the annual meeting. The by-laws do not allow us to move the Annual Meeting forward into the spring. It was suggested that the program committee put something together for them in April or early May.
7. **Timeline for membership renewal drive:** Ed sent letters to all 2019 and 2020 non-renewals today. A second letter to 2021 non-renewals will go out shortly. Notices in the newsletter and Facebook are ongoing. Lisa will get Ed an updated list of all those who have completed the onboarding process for 2020, so he can contact those who are not already members.

8. **January Newsletter:** Percy will be out of town in late December. The Board supported publication of the newsletter on January 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. Percy will send an email to all MAMGA members on January 1<sup>st</sup> indicating that the publication will be delayed.
  9. **2022 Goals:** Need to be flexible to accommodate more changes that are sure to come.
  10. **Next Board Meeting:** January 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>, to be determined.
  11. **Meeting Adjourned:** Sally motioned to adjourn. Percy seconded. Motion passed @ 5:52 pm.
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### **Reminders:**

Join us! Don't forget to renew your MAMGA membership through [the MAMGA website](#). If you spend a reasonable amount of money (for a plant lover) at local nurseries, your membership fee will be offset by your discounts due to MAMGA membership.

Help maintain a healthy local economy by donating, shopping, supporting restaurants, etc. Whether in the form of a donation to MAMGA, other gardening organizations or local businesses, our support can make a positive difference.

You still have a month to get 10 continuing ed (CE) hours and report them to the [Online reporting system](#) to maintain your certification as an MG. If you've been following the email updates of the changes to the MG Program, you may have noticed that the requirements have been modified and reduced to be much more like the original system. We have promises of a more streamlined reporting system to come, so hang in there one more year! Reporting 10 hours of CE will preserve your certification.

## **Meet Your Fellow Master Gardener**

### **Barbara Borders**

**Text & Photos by Mary Collet**

Barbara Borders has been smitten with gardening for as long as she can remember. "I was trained in the womb," she says. Her mother was pregnant while attending Bright's School of Floral Design. Barbara grew up in her parents' greenhouse and floral shop. Those childhood experiences instilled in Barbara a love for plants.

When living on 150 acres in southwestern Dane County, Barbara grew all manner of vegetables, flowers, and trees. Now in the city, she has transformed her once-plain yard into beautifully landscaped mixed flower-vegetable beds, punctuated by container plants. Barbara considers gardening a "work in progress." She's constantly trying new things. She particularly enjoys growing bonsai and is a member of the Badger Bonsai Society.

Flower beds are devoted to perennials for the most part. An avid traveler, Barbara was inspired to grow lupine and lavender after seeing those flowers in Ushuaia, Argentina, and Provence, France, respectively. Vegetables are interspersed among the flowers: globe artichoke, tomatoes, peppers, and 6-foot-tall okra! A massive rhubarb plant can be traced to the farm of Barbara's great grandparents in Westfield, WI. At the corner of her property sits a North Star sour cherry tree.

## Barbara's Bonsai



As a Master Gardener Volunteer, Barbara contributes her gardening talents to plant propagation at Olbrich Gardens, seeding and transplanting from January through April. She enjoys working with others. The advantages of becoming a Master Gardener, she says, are the opportunity to learn a tremendous amount about plants and to develop friendships with other gardeners.



Two border gardens





The Gardener in her element

Photos by Mary Collet