

MAMGA December 2023 Newsletter



In this issue:

The Life Cycle of Chocolate –Blossom to Fruit p. 1

Photos by Percy Mather

President's Column p. 2 / 2024 Programs pp.2 – 3 Calendar p. 4 / Nov 13 Board Meeting Minutes (Draft) / pp.5 - 6

President's Column by Ed Meachen

I've got three pieces of MAMGA business to discuss with you in the December president's column.

First and foremost is the new Facebook group. As you know, we already have a Facebook page (MAMGA – Madison Area Master Gardeners Association) with close to 400 followers. This is a public page open to anyone. But we decided to create a private page for MAMGA members only. This is a page we hope you will use to ask questions, share ideas, share pictures of your gardens and your favorite plants, and get to know one another in the same way we created the social get-together of Green Thumb Tuesday lunches. The private page is, in fact, an homage to the Green Thumb Tuesday's lunches. It's called MAMGA Virtual Green Thumb. If you have access to Facebook, send a request to join.

Second, the Program Committee has wrapped up its work for 2024. We have 13 programs. The only months without a program are September and December. The programs are diverse and fascinating. I think they "lean" towards trees next year. But we have programs on ancient gardens, Dane county tree canopies and heritage oaks, birdscaping, the gardener as artist, the annual meeting with a talk on Baobabs, tree ID workshop, the Leopold shack, the teaching garden tour, a Devil's Lake visit, a healing garden, how to make garden art, and one of Art De Smet's famous English garden tours. See below for more calendar information.

Third, we are about half-way to our membership renewal effort. If you have not yet renewed, we hope you will do so this month. Those who haven't renewed will receive another reminder a couple of weeks before Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all at some of our programs and perhaps at Garden Expo in February. Merry Christmas and many many happy new years!

Preliminary List of 2024 MAMGA Programs

Here's a look at next year's programs. Mark your calendars and plan to join in whether in person or via Zoom. Additional information will be sent out and posted as we get nearer to the event. A printed final version of this list along with the MAMGA membership cards will be sent out in January to those who have joined or renewed.

Date/Time	Topic	Speaker	Location
January 20 10 AM	Theory and Traditions behind Islamic Garden Design	Kathryn Gleason Cornell University	Zoom

Date/Time	Topic	Speaker	Location
Feb 6 6:30 PM	Dane County Tree Canopy collaborative and Heritage Oak Tree Project	Melanie Askay/ Matthew Noone	Zoom
March 6 7 PM	Birdscaping	Carrie Hennessy Johnson Nursery	Zoom
March 20 7 PM	The Gardener as Artist	Nina Koziol	Olbrich
April 13	Annual Meeting Baobabs	David Baum	Goodman Community
May 15 6 PM	Tree ID Workshop	Brianna Frank	Arboretum
June 6 9:30 AM	Aldo Leopold Shack (Tour)		Baraboo
June 29 11 AM	Meet and greet new MGVs/Teaching Garden Tour		UW – Ext
July 9 10 AM	Devils Lake	Naturalist, Sue Johansen- Mayoleth	Devil's Lake State Park
July 31 10 AM – 11:30	Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden	Mark Dwyer	Edgerton Hospital
Aug 10 9 AM – 10:30 AM	Flower Arranging	Ryan Dostal	Allen Centennial Garden
Oct 12 10 - Noon	Garden Art	Francine Tompkins	Her home
Nov 6 6:30	English Gardens	Art De Smet	Oakwood

Calendar of Events

December 5, 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Inland Way in Monona just off Broadway. No need to sign up, just stop by.

January 2, 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Inland Way in Monona just off Broadway. No need to sign up, just stop by.

January 16, Tuesday 3pm 2024 MAMGA Board Meeting via Zoom

January 16, Tuesday 2024 WIMGA Annual Meeting WIMGA members will receive information through the monthly WIMGA newsletter.

January 20, 10 – 11:30am Saturday MAMGA Program: Kathryn Gleason Theory and Traditions behind Islamic Garden Design via Zoom Eventbrite registration info will be emailed

February 6, 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Inland Way in Monona just off Broadway. No need to sign up, just stop by.

February 9 – 11 2024 PBS Garden & Landscape Expo MAMGA will have a booth.

Important information for maintaining certification: Continuing your Certification is encouraged but not required for MAMGA membership. It is, however, required to be a WIMGA member.

2023 Deadline for Reporting Hours Extended to January 8th.

Our reporting year will stay the same, January 1 - December 31. However, we know everyone is busy during the holiday season. Therefore, you will have until midnight January 8, 2024 to enter your hours for 2023. On January 9, 2024 the ORS will no longer accept hours for 2023. Please enter your hours early.

MAMGA Grant Cycle Needs Your Help: by Carol Troyer-Schank

Every year, MAMGA offers up to \$500 to promote research-based gardening improvements in Dane County for school, library and nonprofit community garden projects. Grants cannot be used to benefit individual home gardens or private businesses.

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

We require applicants to secure a MAMGA Member to sponsor their application. What does sponsorship mean? At the minimum, a MAMGA sponsor will consult with them, read their application, make sure they are following best-practice in their planning, and perhaps visit with them during the upcoming year. As a potential sponsor, you might even approach and encourage a nonprofit group to apply for such a grant.

Applications are open from December 1, 2023 through March 1, 2024. Go to <https://www.mamgawi.org/mamga-grants> to see the 2023 forms. They will be updated for 2024 shortly but the information needed remains the same.

2024 Membership Cards will be mailed in January. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do it NOW and make your secretary very happy. Use your card at 16 local businesses for a variety of discounts from 10 to 15%.

MADISON AREA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION



YOUR
NAME

2024

Website: www.mamgawi.org
Email: info@mamgawi.org

A community nonprofit dedicated to gardening, stewardship and education

Please visit the MAMGA website to renew your membership: <https://www.mamgawi.org/mamga-membership>

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January Program

Speaker: Kathryn Gleason, Professor Emeritus, Landscape Architecture, Cornell University

Presentation Title: Theory and Traditions behind Islamic Garden Design

Kathryn was trained as a landscape architect (BSLA Cornell, MLA Harvard) and archaeologist (DPhil Oxford) and is an internationally renowned specialist on the archaeology and history of designed landscapes in the ancient Roman world. As a professor of contemporary design, she brings her research to bear on the 21st century landscape by teaching how ancient designs reflected the life at the time and how cultural influences influence change over the centuries.

Professor Gleason's education includes: Doctor of Philosophy in Archeology, University of Oxford, Lincoln College; Master of Landscape Architecture, with distinction, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design; Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture, Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Professor Emeritus Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

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The cover photos were taken at the National Botanic Gardens in Washington DC. The tree that provides us with chocolate happened to be covered with blossoms with fruiting pods in various stages of development.

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MAMGA Board Minutes - Draft
3:00 November 13, 2023
UW Extension 5201 Fen Oak Dr. Madison, WI
(EIN 39-1694554)

Board Members Present: Emigh Cannaday, Mary Davidson, B'Ann Gabelt, Judi Janowski , Nancy Kieraldo, Ed Meachen, Barbara Park, Dennis Tande, Carol Troyer-Shank
Absent: Karen Allenstein, Alyska Bailey **Also Present:** Percy Mather

1. **Review of September Minutes** Moved by Mary and seconded by Barb, with one name substitution. Approved.
2. **2024 Budget** Mary presented a detailed summary of the budget, with thanks to Art for the groundwork. Mary divided the budget into three categories - income, expenses and grants. There were discussions regarding credit card fee payments, changing the Zoom license from two to one, providing scholarships for on-boarding and a possible increase in amounts to Community Grants. Ed is writing an addendum to the UW Extension and will set up a meeting with Extension and Lisa. The purpose of the addendum is to discuss our need to have access to names of Dane Ck certified MGVs and to be able to offer monetary support for onboarding in 2025. Dennis will include the 2024 budget in the January board member mailing.
3. **Newsletter** Emigh, Percy, Judi, Dennis and Ed will meet to discuss the numerous ideas related to our current newsletter. Does the newsletter need to be monthly? When should it be mailed? What is the role of the newsletter? What other options are available to promote/link MAMGA events? What topics may be included to promote MAMGA, recognize current members, present horticultural information? How will we build our community and educate?
4. **Garden Expo 2024** February 9-11. We will have a booth, at the non-profit rate of \$120. Mary has ordered daily attendance/parking passes. Carol will set up a *Genius Sign-Up* for volunteers, in 3 hour blocks. Emigh will check into a banner and additional swag. Dennis brought a table poster done for an earlier event. Carol also suggested a micro-green project as a possible take home activity.
5. **2024 Programs** Ed presented the program calendar, which looks great. He will become chair of the Program Committee and Deb Pienkowski will be taking over the MAMGA presidency.
6. **Website** Emily Meier is working on the web overhaul along with Dennis.
7. **Farmers' Markets** MAMGA is exploring having tables at local Farmers' Markets. There will need to be a discussion with Lisa regarding MG certification, Plant Health Advisors and MAMAG volunteers
8. **Community Grants** Ed reported he has received 7/11 reports. Applications for 2024 will open
December 1. Mary Collett's name and contact information need to be added to the application form so applicants will be able to obtain the name of a potential MAMGA sponsor.
9. **Membership List** Board members will have read only access to the membership list.
10. **WIMGA** We received a \$250 grant for signage at Lussier, which was approved and on its way.
11. **Next Board meeting** January 16, 3:00 via Zoom
12. **Meeting Adjourned**
The UW West Ag Research Station is looking for MGV volunteers in 2024. Contact Elaine at elainewink@aol.com for more information.