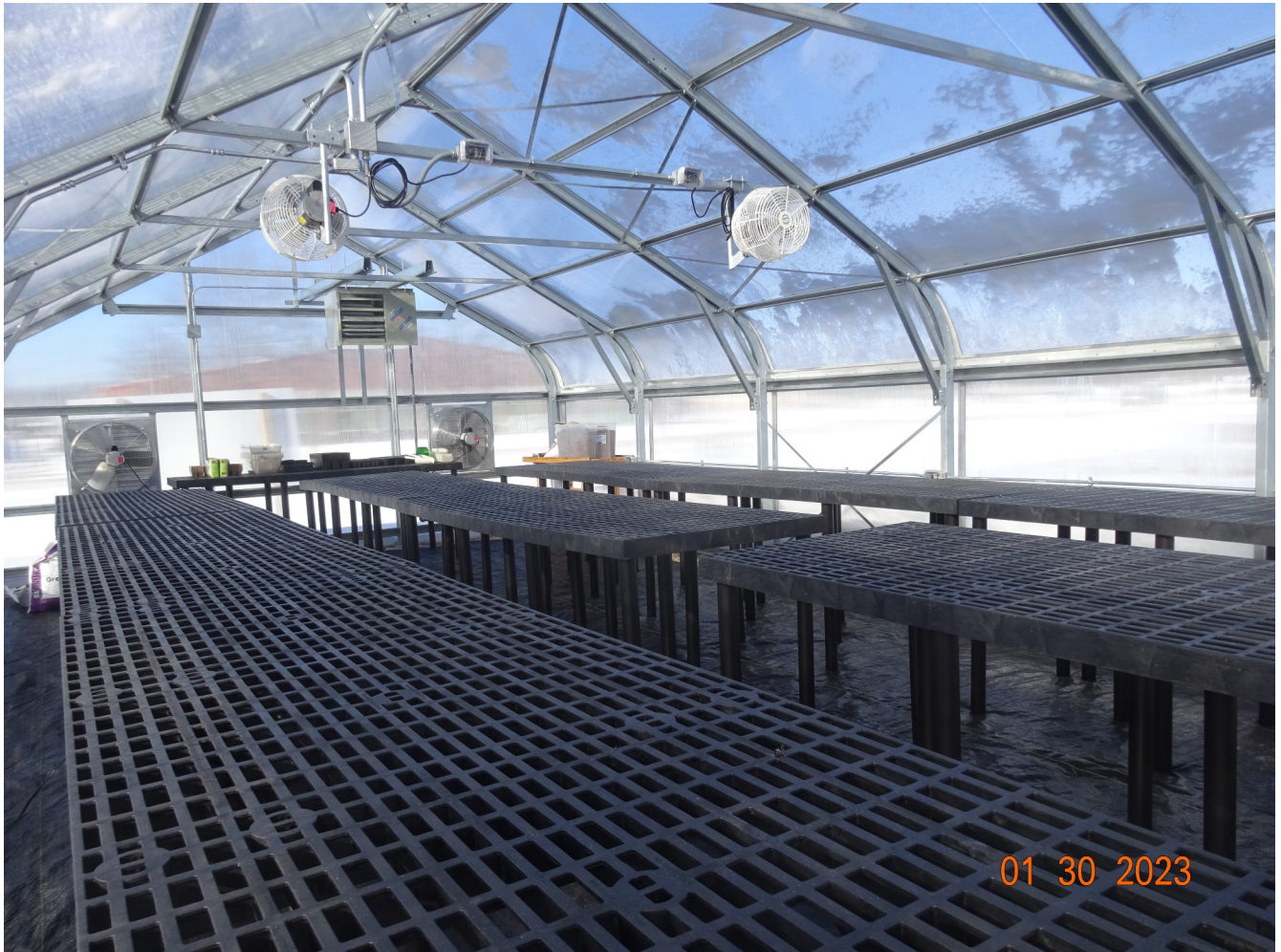


MAMGA Newsletter



February 2023

The New Greenhouse Photo by Percy Mather

A view of the interior of the new greenhouse. Despite the single digit temperatures outside, the interior temperature felt very comfortable. Expect a feature on the plans for the greenhouse in the March newsletter.

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President's Column

by Ed Meachen

We are about to experience real winter again. Thankfully, there will be nice snow insulation for the brutal temperatures ahead. I know many of us turn to gardening programs in the winter. The pandemic spawned Zoom, and Zoom spawned hundreds of garden programs in the last three years. Many of them are wonderful, educational, and just plain fun. But I have to confess that I have grown weary of virtual gardening. I need to see people face-to-face, to talk and laugh and learn just as gardeners need to get their hands in the soil.

That brings me to the annual MAMGA meeting. Never before have we had it so late in the year. It's Saturday, April 22nd, coming a month into spring. (By the way, the 22nd is Earth Day—what could be more appropriate?). This is an experiment. We don't know if we will have fewer members in April than we've had in February or March. We don't know if people are still wary of interaction in this post-pandemic year. The MAMGA board's thinking was that we wanted to have the annual meeting after the "on-boarding" and certification period at the end of March. We wanted to be able to invite these new master gardeners to join our association. In the past when we took the spring and summer long courses we automatically became MAMGA members thanks to Lisa Johnson who was able to wrap our annual membership dues right into the cost of taking the course. Then we had a splendid graduation ceremony in November. All of that, of course, has changed dramatically, and we now have certification at the beginning of the year. So, here we are with the experimental change to our annual membership meeting.

You can't register yet for the annual meeting, but we are working to put that registration on our web site. I hope we will get it done in the next few weeks. This annual meeting will be the first face-to-face meeting since 2020. (Remember we did that one on February 27th just days before everything was closed down!). I am looking forward this year to a breakfast catered by the Goodman Community Center. We will be in the Brassworks building at Goodman, 214 Waubesa St just off Atwood Ave about a half mile from Olbrich Botanical Gardens. We hope to have our traditional silent auction. We will have some MAMGA caps, bags, and clothing for sale, and perhaps some opportunities to sign up for volunteering at the teaching garden and other venues. Stanley Temple, an emeritus faculty member at UW-Madison and a senior fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation, will speak about phenology and climate change. We will have our usual business meeting where we vote on board members and bylaw changes. We will have the usual annual report and short presentations by two of our 2022 grant recipients. The registration fee this year will be \$20 for members and \$25 for friends of members. There will be time to see old friends, new members, and share stories of the pandemic (maybe not!). I very much hope to see you there.

Membership Renewal. We'd like to urge you one more time, if you haven't already renewed your MAMGA membership, to do it now while you are thinking about it. Let it be the first step toward a successful gardening year. You'll avoid feelings of guilt and the extra postage and effort needed to distribute membership cards to members. Remember your membership card gives you discounts at a number of local businesses and nurseries. Some members find that the discounts pay for their MAMGA membership.

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

Calendar Events

February 4 Saturday 10 -11:30am "BIPOC(Black & Indigenous People of Color) Foodways: From Africa to Madison" Yusuf Bin-Rella, Chef, UW-Madison & Cofounder, TradeRoots Culinary Collective.(This presentation will be delivered in person on the UW campus as well as live-streamed.)

February 7 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

February 10-12 Garden & Landscape Expo

Can you believe it is that time again? Check out the website for information.

February 18 Saturday 10 – 11:30am Activity of Woody Perennials Through Winter - Al Kovalski, Horticulture Department, UW-Madison Register at [this website](#). The fee is \$15 or free for Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens.

February 20-24 1:00-2:30 pm University of Minnesota Extension Educators offer the *Gardening from the Ground Up* Zoom webinar series. The free virtual workshops take place each afternoon. Registration information is [available here](#).

February 25 Saturday 10 – 11:30am “Gardening for the Seasons: Lessons from Lurie Garden” Kathryn Deery, Head Horticulturist for the Lurie Garden at Millennium Park, Chicago MAMGA members can [register for this session](#) free by using the promo code: MAMGA.

Using Lurie Garden as a model, we will explore choosing the “right plant, for the right place”, perennials for every season, designing with native plants, mindful watering, and best practices for cutting back your garden for wildlife and insects. The high diversity and concentration of plants makes Lurie a leader in plant selection, management, and ecologically sensitive maintenance practices. With a few simple adjustments to way we garden, a beautifully designed space that considers sustainability and ecology is within everyone’s reach.

March 1 Wednesday Due date for MAMGA Grant applications. The MAMGA grant application process has begun. Each grant applicant needs a MAMGA member sponsor. Applications are due by March 1, 2023. If you know of an eligible organization that might be interested in a grant, see the [MAMGA website](#) for information and the grant application forms.

March 6 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.

March 13 Tuesday 3-4:30pm MAMGA Board meets at the Extension office.

What I'm Reading

by Ed Meachen

To my fellow historians of gardening I offer up a book that covers landscape design from the middle ages to the present: ***The History of Landscape Design in 100 Gardens***, (2018) by Linda Chisholm with absolutely luscious photography by Michael Garber. It must have been fun visiting 100 gardens from around the world. Chisholm is also an excellent historian who “explores how social, political, and economic influences shaped garden design principles.”

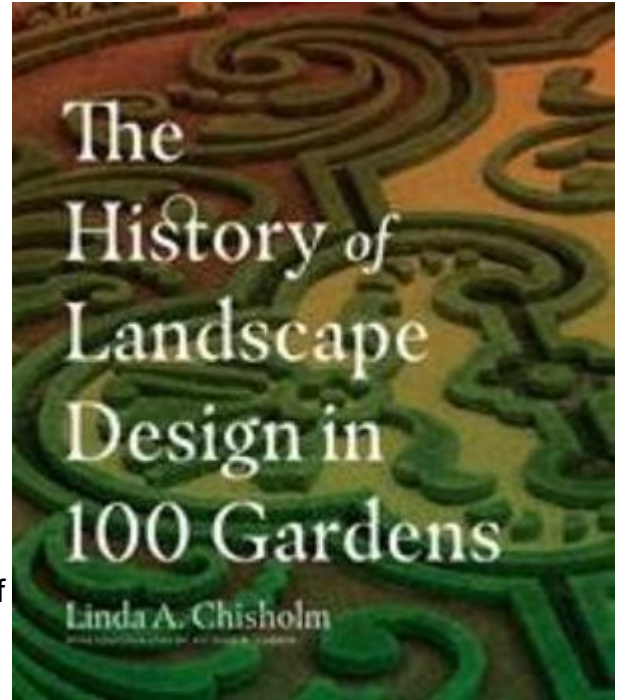
Some of my favorites are Sissinghurst, in Kent, England, Graetye Manor in Sussex, England, and The Music Garden in Toronto. But of course Chisholm could have written a book called the History of Landscape Design in 1000 Gardens. A coffee table book steeped in history.

Seed collections at Dane County libraries

by Mary Davidson

I spent my career working in a public library, in part publicizing the vast number of resources available to anyone visiting in person or via the website. Gardeners have a treasure trove of educational opportunities at whatever library they call “home” in Dane County. Over the next couple of months I’ll highlight some of these treasures.

Before you place your seed order, consider checking out what local libraries have to offer. Several of the Madison Public Library locations and Oregon Public Library have native seeds and commonly grown vegetable seeds. I did my best to review the websites of every Dane County library, but I might have missed where they feature their seed library on their respective website, so call your local library to inquire.



Participating Madison Public Library locations include Goodman, Lakeview, Meadowridge, Pinney and Sequoya. Their website features the list of native Wisconsin seeds collected by Dane County Park volunteers and a local naturalist. There are also curated book lists on a wide variety of gardening topics suitable for adults and kids. Spring gardening programs are in the upcoming events section. <https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/collections/dane-county-seed-library>

Oregon Public Library’s webpage features the seeds they have for fall and winter sowing, along with a PDF that contains instructions for each of the 10 varieties for 2022-2023. In addition to natives, Oregon has a variety of vegetable and flower seeds (spinach, lettuce, tomato, marigold and pepper). See the website or call the library for more information. <https://www.oregonpubliclibrary.org/seed-library> 608-835-3656

All these libraries stress the sustainability of saving seeds and sharing them with the greater community. While gleaning seeds from your garden plants is encouraged, it’s not required for participation. Public Libraries are amazing! Check out yours today.

MAMGA Board Minutes - Draft

4:00 January 9, 2023

Via Zoom (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

Also Present: Lisa Johnson, Mary Davidson, Barbara Strand

Review of November minutes Moved and seconded. Approved.

Board Changes Eugenia Beecher has resigned from the Board as of December 15, 2022. Mary Davidson was nominated and approved to fill the remainder of her term. Mary gave a brief bio including her work at the Teaching Garden. She has agreed to step in as treasurer following Art's retirement. There will be 3 openings to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Ed announced 3 candidates.

Treasurer's Report Art sent the end of the year budget and reported that we did well. We have \$30,000 in CDs, which will be moved for a higher interest. We then have \$20,000 in capital outside of the CDs. Our biggest deficit was \$6,000 from March-July 2022. Victoria will coordinate the sale of our 92 logo items at the Annual Meeting. She has also ordered additional hats.

Membership Art's membership graph shows we are holding steady with 217 renewals for 2023. At this time last year, we had 226 renewals. Dennis said that all 2023 membership cards will be mailed this week along with the program calendar. Letters to non-renewers along with program calendars will also be mailed this week. Karen will work with Ed to target a group of 16 who have passed the On-Boarding test, but have not joined. Lisa continues to have difficulty accessing information about people who have done the On-Boarding. Because of Carol's suggestion, Lisa will check if people can indicate that their contact information may be shared with local chapters. It is important for the UW to be more supportive of local chapters. Lisa will host 2 spring welcoming events for On-Boarders, April 7, 1:00-4:00 and April 13, 5:00-8:00. She would like MAMGA to be present. Carol will address the need for new trainees to know about the range of volunteer sites whether through the UW Horticulture Department or through MAMGA.

By-Laws Ed, Bonnie and Dennis presented a revised copy of the by-laws reflecting stream lining, language simplification and additions/subtractions that better describe our current working system. There was much discussion regarding certification and MAMGA membership. Does certification rely solely on passing On-Boarding or must volunteer/educational hours also be recorded? A further revised edition will be sent to the Board, including minor edits related to pronoun usage. For committees that are being eliminated, it is important to make sure that those jobs continue to be completed. Dennis has a "MAMGA Map" notebook with complete job descriptions for officers along with ad hoc committees.

Calendar Ed sent the 2023 schedule. Location of Executive Board meetings is TBD,

Program Changes The only change is the elimination of recognition of graduates from the Teaching Garden event.

Tech Support Carol has offered tutorial sessions for members having trouble setting up an account and logging hours. She said there was minimal participation and the process was overly difficult.

WIMGA There is Zoom program on February 7 for association presidents discussing current issues.

B'Ann has sent questions to WIMGA and they replied that MAMGA still qualifies as a WIMGA member even though some of our members are not certified.

Political Announcements Percy would like to encourage members to vote in the

upcoming February election. Art cautioned that as a non-profit organization, there are specific rules. He will send a copy to Percy, Judi and Barb.

Meeting Adjourned Carol moved, Barb seconded. Meeting adjourned
Next Board meeting March 13, **3:00pm** at the Extension office.

Seeking a Volunteer Plant Sale Committee Coordinator by Lisa Johnson

I am looking for someone to fill the role of Plant Sale Committee Coordinator. Ten master gardeners serve on the Plant Sale Committee and several committee members have assumed roles of coordinating various activities including: seed starting, communications, plant digs & plant donations, supplies and specific activities on the day of the Plant Sale. Karen Allenstein, who is currently filling the role of Plant Sale Coordinator, will continue to serve on the committee but will focus on plant digs & plant donations. She is available to assist and train the new coordinator and has templates in place for all aspects of the role. The coordinator's responsibilities include setting up the plant sale calendar, recruiting MG volunteers to help with the sale using [signup.com](https://www.signup.com), submitting postings about the Plant Sale in the MAMGA newsletter, assigning committee members and volunteers roles on Plant Sale Day, reporting plant sale results, thanking volunteers after the sale, etc. If you are interested in learning more about this role, please contact me (johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com) or Karen Allenstein (kallenstein@charter.net).

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 talking about your prior experience and attaching your CV is not necessary, it may help us to decide if we have multiple applicants.

Thank you!