



Costa Rica ground cover – Photo by Percy Mather

MAMGA Newsletter

January 2021

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From President Ed Meachen

To end this extraordinary year we decided to publish the January 1st MAMGA newsletter a week and a half early. In this year of Covid-19 when we do not need to report volunteer hours, but do need to report continuing education hours, we feel it is very important to provide you with as many opportunities to watch, listen, or read educational gardening programs as possible. It's never been easier to be certified by simply meeting the continuing ed requirement of ten hours between October 2019 and noon on December 31, 2020. We hope,

that if you have not yet reported your continuing education hours, you will still have time to do so by noon on December 31st. This newsletter gives you CE program ideas available on videos through your computer, tablet or smart phone. If you can devote a few hours before the end of the year to become informed on one of your favorite subjects, you can gain certification. [Note: MAMGA Board members are required to be certified.]

To report your education and (optional this year) volunteer hours, go to <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/report-your-hours/>. You may recall last January all current master gardeners had to “enroll” in the Master Gardener volunteer program. You will need to go to the Online Reporting System to enroll again for 2021 after January 1st.

As you will see in the MAMGA Board minutes for the December 7th board meeting, we have decided to have a virtual annual membership meeting. We have secured a keynote speaker, and we will be doing a very short business meeting. The Annual Meeting will require registration on the MAMGA web site which will be available on the web site in early January. The meeting will be free this year. We have scheduled the meeting for Saturday, February 27th at 9 am to 10:30 am. It will be delivered on Zoom. So, for the first time, any of you going south in February can attend the meeting wherever you might be using a computer, tablet or smart phone.

Finally, be sure to look at the 2021 Program array in the newsletter below, and mark your calendars for all the programs, and for the annual meeting. The Program Committee has put together a terrific lineup of programs. Check out the one on January 27th titled “Dirt.” One of my favorite subjects.

Happy and safe holidays to one and all!

Easy 2020 Certification Process

Thanks to Covid19, no volunteer hours were required this year so ten hours of education is all that's needed to become certified for 2021. It is a great opportunity for you to recertify your MGV status. The deadline for putting your continuing education hours in the MGV database is noon on December 31st at https://volunteers.wimastergardener.org/vms/sec_Login/. If you haven't done this before, you can apply for a password at this website and get your hours recorded. Be sure to Save each entry. There may be a slight delay between entering the data and seeing it displayed. Each time you log in, you will see your total hours. There are also instructional videos that show you how to register.

Looking for continuing education opportunities? Check out these websites:

<https://pbswisconsin.org/watch/how-does-it-grow/>

<https://pbswisconsin.org/watch/wisconsin-gardener/>

<https://pbswisconsin.org/lets-grow-stuff/> Ben Futa's farewell project

The speakers at the 2020 Garden & Landscape Expo are recorded at

<https://pbswisconsin.org/watch/university-place/>

<https://pbswisconsin.org/watch/university-place/creating-a-garden-for-all-seasons-3vpute/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU5wqR7oz-c> Purdue University's Winter Gardening program

Green Thumb Tuesday

Looking for some garden company? Join in Green Thumb Tuesdays Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 12:30pm. January 5, 2021 12:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada) If you

haven't participated before, email Dana Warren to get on the list of participants at [<djwarren5703@hotmail.com>](mailto:djwarren5703@hotmail.com) An email with the Zoom site will be sent to you so you can connect to the group.

Deductible Donations

If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership in MAMGA for 2021 and feel free to include a donation. In 2020, even those taxpayers who don't itemize deductions can get a deduction for up to \$300 in addition to the standard deduction for donations to charitable organizations. Get more info at this [AARP website](#). MAMGA is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

MAMGA Board Meeting via Zoom will take place from 4:45 to 6:45pm on Monday, January 4. Members are welcome to attend. Contact Ed Meachen willismeachen@gmail.com for more information.

Garden & Landscape Expo 2021

For years, many have welcomed February as the month of the Garden Expo and a sure sign of spring. This year the event will be virtual on February 20 and 21, but possibly even more welcome than before. Registration and information can be found at <https://wigardenexpo.com/>.

January Program

Click on the link below to register for our January MAMGA Program: Advanced Soil Management for Master Gardeners presented by Doug Soldat. It will be held January 27 from 7 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. Go to [Eventbrite](#) to register before noon on January 26. You will receive an email with the Zoom address.

Watch for the Gypsy Moth

This tree pest has been steadily moving west through the US and Dane County. Check [this website](#) for images of the insect in its different stages. Inspection of outdoor materials and destruction of the egg cases will reduce damage to trees.

MAMGA Board Minutes - Draft
4:00-5:30 December 7, 2020
Zoom Meeting
(EIN 39-1694554)

Board Members Present: Mary Collet, Art De Smet, B'Ann Gabelt, Judi Janowski, Percy Mather, Ed Meachen, Bonnie Mitchell, Victoria Robertson, Dennis Tande

Also Present: Lisa Johnson **Excused:** Sally Kefer, Dana Warren

1. **Review and approval of October minutes** Moved by Victoria and seconded by Art.
2. **Treasurer's Report** Art provided a summary of the budget and indicated a 70% increase in donations over last year. But there will be a significant drop in revenue due to lack of a 2021 MG class and continuing membership non-renewals. However, Art reported that we are very financially secure because of minimal expenses. Revenue from the Annual Meeting Silent Auction will be left at zero, with any income being a pleasant surprise. Two CDs coming due will be left for one additional year
3. **Membership Renewals:** We have approximately 200 renewals. Ed has sent emails to 2019 and 2020 non-renewals. He will send an additional reminder at the end of December. In

January, Dennis will send membership cards, 2021 program schedule and Annual Meeting information.

4. **2021 Programs** Ed has sent the latest schedule, a mixture of virtual and outdoor classes. There was discussion regarding a volunteer recognition in 2021. Lisa was flexible with dates.
5. **Annual Meeting** Virtual meeting scheduled for February 27, beginning at 9:00. Art suggest 6 working groups to organize the event including - Business meeting, Community Grants, Silent Auction, Meeting schedule, technology and Board elections. Much of the business portion will be conducted ahead of time. Elections may be conducted by Zoom Poll. The 2 completed Community Grants will each give a 5-7 minute pre-recorded presentation and include information about how they worked during COVID. . B'Ann suggested a pairing with Blue Plate/Annual Meeting for an additional source of income. Ed will check with Cheri Schweitzer regarding the current status. We will add this possibility to one of the Annual Meeting work groups. There was a discussion of Annual Meeting participants making a voluntary \$5 or \$10 donation to either the Community Grants or Signature Project or some aspect of MAMGA.
6. **Community Grants** Mary will help with reviewing applications for 2021. So far, no applications have been received.
7. **Nomination Committee** There will be one Board opening with a likely candidate. Victoria will send a request for bios/photos.
8. **MOU/MGV Certification and On-boarding** Ed forwarded Mike's response. It appears that no immediate action is necessary. Ed and Lisa will continue to question Mike about the impact on MAMGA. Ed reported on his research regarding MOU. Lisa emphasized that certification and education need to be paired for maximum impact along with social and networking possibilities.
9. **Other** B'Ann attended the WIMGA meeting and will summarize. WIMGA did approve the by-law changes regarding categories of members. Dennis will send MAMGA brochure PDF to Lisa for printing. Lisa will ask Mike about auto reply/confirmation for members after they submit certification hours.
10. **Next Board meeting** January 4, 2021 at 4:45pm. Zoom format
11. Meeting adjourned

2021 MAMGA Program Schedule*

Date	Time	Topic	Location	Speaker
1/27	7:00 pm	Dirt	Virtual	Doug Soldat
2/13	10:00 am	Plants in Space	Virtual	Simon Gilroy
3/6	10:00 am	Tour of Agrecol	Edgerton	Avery Johnson
3/17	1:00 pm	How to Make Maple Syrup	Open Kettle Farms/ Pienkowski Home Cross Plains	Jan Noll Paul Pienkowski
4/17	9:00 am	Avoiding Garden Mistakes	Virtual	Mark Dwyer
5/18	7:00 pm	Lakeshore Nature Preserve Overview	Virtual	Bryn Sriver
6/5	10:00 am	Faville Grove Tour	Lake Mills	Brenna Marciak
6/26	2:00 pm	Container Gardening	UW-Ext	Erin Presley
7/3	11:00 am	Land of the Giant Hostas Tour	Milton	Jeff Miller
7/12	10:00 am	Prairie Edge Gardens Tour	Rockford	Carole Hunter
7/31	10:11 am	Teaching Garden Tour and Luncheon	UW-Ext office	Karen Allenstein
8/10	10:00 am	Schumacher Farm Tour	Waunakee	Amy Jo Dositek
10/20	7:00 pm	Nature Conservancy	Oakwood Village West	Elizabeth Koehler

*Please check our website (www.mamgawi.org) for changes or updates. Register early, some programs have a maximum number of openings.