

## MAMGA January 2021 Newsletter - Part 2

From the editor: The first part of the newsletter was sent out on 12/23, earlier than the normal first of the month, in order to encourage members to complete ten hours of continuing education and report in order to be certified. (I'm hoping you've all done that.) This second portion includes 2021 program information and an important report on the annual WIMGA meeting. This information may help us understand the changes to the MGV program in this year and the next.



Overlooking Pheasant Branch in Middleton

Photo by Percy Mather

WIMGA (WI Master Gardener Association) Annual Meeting held Thursday, December 3, 2020  
- 6:30 PM Report by B'Ann Gabelt, MAMGA representative

From the WIMGA website: This year the WIMGA annual meeting was held online! Since we haven't been able to have a conference this year, we got together virtually. 175 people joined in. Becky Gutzman led the annual meeting with an update from Mike Maddox (see below – info extracted from slide presentation).

Amy Freitag: Our lives take place more online than ever before—virtual meetings, seminars and maybe even a social event since the pandemic changed our world. Master Gardener Volunteers are now exploring how to use virtual education and meetings as part of volunteer activities. This presentation focused on the best practices to prepare you to be an online instructor and learner in our online learning environments. Topics included things ranging from Annotations to “Zoom bombs” to prep you for participating in the virtual space. Topics covered included preparation, logistics, tips for engagement and managing the group, and being a good online learner.

Mike Maddox: Outreach Program Manager

#### Volunteering

- Still continuing with COVID restrictions and campus guidance into 2021
- Return to 24 hour requirement in 2021, AND going to be flexible

#### Reporting

- Permanently moving to Jan 1 -Dec 31 for all activity reporting
- No annual report this year as in years past
- Annual enrollment begins January 1, 2021 in ORS (Online Reporting System)

#### Learning & Training

- Moving to Canvas (Learning Management System) in early 2021 for all continuing education (Plants Plus, others). Everyone will get an account after enrollment.
- Provide access to Onboarding-Lite for all existing volunteers (10 hours CE)
- Currently piloting Foundations in Horticulture & Onboarding
- Fall 2021: Foundations in Horticulture opens statewide
- January 2022, new Onboarding opens for statewide

#### Honored Status

- Coming in 2021 (for 2022)
- It's an award! Hours waived...

#### Primary Contact

- In 2021, a primary contact person (Extension staff) must be determined for each MGCV volunteer

#### Project Guidelines (begin in 2021)

- Guidance to align projects with MG program
- Ensure best practices for volunteer support AND risk management liability

#### Association MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding)

- SLOWLY implementing in 2021
- Align with MG program
- Ensure best practices for volunteer support AND risk management liability

#### 2020 WIMGA Accomplishments

- ▶ No host for 2019 conference, so annual meeting held in conjunction with a 1-day continuing ed opportunity
- ▶ Board meetings were held via Zoom
- ▶ Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Spring and Fall Local Rep face-to-face meetings cancelled
- ▶ Working with Extension to develop MOUs that will be required
- ▶ Thorough review of the Bylaws to reflect the way the organization is changing
- ▶ No 2020 annual conference

Note: Until the threat of the COVID epidemic is over, MAMGA will continue to use virtual communication by using Zoom.

**January 4 Monday MAMGA Board Meeting** via Zoom. It will take place from 4:45 to 6:30pm. Members are welcome to attend except for (very rare) closed sessions. Contact Ed Meachen [willismeachen@gmail.com](mailto:willismeachen@gmail.com) for connection information. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, joining in will show you what the Board does.

#### Agenda

1. Approval of December 7, 2020 board meeting minutes
2. End of the year Budget Report and approval of 2021 budget [Art]
  - a. MAMGA Zoom Pro Account for 2021
  - b. Hardy Plant Society home garden tours support?
3. 2021 Renewals and January letters to members [Ed and Dennis]
4. 2021-2022 Nominations [Ed]
5. Annual Meeting Planning Group reports [Art and Ed]
6. Newsletter and Web discussion [Percy]
7. Possible changes to the Board Calendar [Ed]
8. A general discussion of MAMGA's future [Ed and Board]
9. Other issues

Next board meeting: March TBA

#### **January 5 Green Thumb Tuesday 12:30-2pm**

Here's the GTT Zoom meeting information.

Join Zoom Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8298388156>

#### **January 27 Wednesday 7 to 8:30pm by Zoom**

*DIRT-Advanced Soil Management for Master Gardeners* presented by Doug Soldat. Go to [Eventbrite](#) to register before noon on January 26. You will receive an email with the Zoom address a day or two before the program.

**February 13 Saturday 10 am by Zoom** *Plants in Space* via Zoom – Watch for an email for signups on Eventbrite

## February 27 Saturday MAMGA Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom 9 to 10:30am

More information & registration will be made available. The event is free to members.

Keynote speaker: Jessica Ross speaks on *Citizen Science in Your Garden*

A garden can be home to birds, animals, pollinators, and other insects. Learn how citizen science practices and principles can help you observe and document garden life—for your own records or to contribute data to a project. We'll discuss ways to monitor monarch butterflies, bumble bees, dragonflies, fungi, birds, and seasonal changes.

Link to Speaker title/bio: <https://badgertalks.wisc.edu/speaker/jessica-ross/>

## March 1 Due Date for MAMGA Community Service Grants

Any MAMGA member can sponsor a project at school garden and public or non-profit community gardening projects located within the Dane County area. Individual grant applications may request up to \$500. Grant funds may be used for seeds, plants, fertilizer, mulch, tools, garden infrastructure, information and education of students and the community but may not be used for paid labor. Look for the applications and more information at <https://www.mamgawi.org/mamga-grants>

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FYI The following are not MAMGA events but may be of interest to our members.

**Olbrich Virtual Lecture series** – January – May Thursday 7 to 8:30pm  
Each lecture costs \$12 for members and \$15 for the general public. Topics and speakers include bumblebees, Doug Tallamy, garden design, and edible plants. There is a \$10 discount for registering for all five classes in the series. More registration and more information [here](#).

**Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens Lecture series** See [the website](#) for more information.

**Garden & Landscape Expo – February 20 & 21**  
[More info & registration](#)