



MAMGA Newsletter

July 2021



Lussier signature planting in 2020
Photo by Percy Mather

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President's Column

The rains have come to us at long last. These summer thundershowers are really hit or miss events, and down here south of Madison we've missed far more than we've hit. We got a half inch last night, and now on this Tuesday morning it looks as if we'll get at least an inch, perhaps much more. In mid to late June I had begun to water the peach trees. I had lots of fruit set, but I began to see some tree stress from the 90 degree days and the drought. Last year I had no flowers. The year before I had no pollinators. This year I had both, and I was determined to get a crop.

Everything growing outside will give thanks for this rain, and that includes the vast array of interesting weeds, and perhaps the Japanese beetles still sleeping underground. They should make their appearance any day now. And I suppose now we will begin to be plagued by mosquitoes—hadn't seen any so far this year. Working with plants and soil and insects always involves balances, disappointments and triumphs. But water trumps all. I'd much rather have the negatives that come with rain than the positives that come with drought.

I've been so immersed in my gardens I feel as if I haven't paid enough attention to MAMGA. Our little working group for the annual membership meeting, however, has made some progress. We will have Reba Luiken, the new director of Allen Centennial Garden, as our keynote speaker and we are engaged with the Goodman Community Center as our venue. We will be meeting with them in the next couple of weeks to firm up details. The annual meeting day, face-to-face we all hope, will be Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022.

As soon as the rain lets up, get out there and pull those weeds. There will never be a better time!

Calendar Events

July 2 Friday 9 to noon Lussier Family Heritage prairie. MAMGA's signature project

July 6 Green Thumb Tuesday goes live! 12:30pm at Monona Gardens,

July 12 Monday 10 to 11am Tour of Prairie Edge Gardens at 4735 Black Oak Trail, Rockford, IL 61101. Drive to the site on your own. The distance is approx. 74 miles or 1 hour 15 minutes of travel time. Bring a beverage to stay hydrated while on the tour. Expect to be impressed by Carole Hunter's day lilies, numbering in the thousands. Register on [Eventbrite](#)

July 15 Thursday 4 to 8pm MAMGA/WHPS Garden Tour East Side of Madison. See [the WHPS website](#) for directions

July 21 Wednesday 4 to 8pm MAMGA/WHPS Garden Tour Mt. Horeb Area. See [the WHPS website](#) for directions

July 31 Saturday 11am to 1pm Teaching Garden Tour and Luncheon
Register at [Eventbrite](#). Catch up on the changes in the last two years:

It's been two years since we have visited the Teaching Garden at UW Extension and much has taken place since then.

- * New crushed stone pathway between the Shade and Sidewalk Gardens, replacing grass
- * New visitor welcome sign on north side of the building
- * Color Wheel Garden is now an annual flower meadow
- * 3 new Aldo Leopold benches installed throughout the garden
- * Grading completed and base course installed on greenhouse site

Learn how the work is accomplished and maybe you will consider joining one of the teams in 2022 to fulfill your volunteer hour requirement for MGCV status.

WIMGA newsletters

If you paid your WIMGA dues and did not receive an email at the beginning of May with the WIMGA newsletter, you can get it from the WIMGA homepage (<https://www.wimga.org/>) The same is true for the July issue; if you don't see it in your inbox, look for it on the WIMGA website.

Volunteer Opportunities

From Lisa Johnson: If you are interested in serving on either committee, it is a good way to get educational information out to the county and/or influence policy if you are interested/passionate about trees or food systems/food justice/food security issues. These are volunteer positions, but there is a per diem for travel to the meetings when needed. I have a call in to the MGCV program to see if this counts for MGCV credit, but be advised, I don't have an answer on that yet.

The **Dane County Tree Board** that I act as staff for, is currently seeking volunteers interested in serving on the Board. The membership of this county committee includes one County Board Supervisor and 8 Dane County resident members, a number of whom are tree care professionals, but we are also seeking members of the public who are concerned about trees and maintaining our urban forests. All members are appointed by the Dane County Executive. The terms are for two years The Board meets monthly on third Tuesdays from 3:45 pm-5:30 pm on matters concerning urban forestry. Meetings are currently online, but eventually may return to face-to-face at the Dane County Extension office. We have an educational event at an elementary school annually to plant trees and provide education to elementary school students on trees, we produce radio, Facebook and NextDoor PSAs on tree issues, hold online or in-person educational events, partner with Parks or the green industry for events, and promote awareness of urban forestry issues like emerald ash borer. For more information on the Board visit: <http://www.treeboard.org/> and to submit a membership application, complete an online application here: <https://dane.granicus.com/boards/w/4d5ebc9bd2aa4f36> by clicking the red 'Apply' button to the right.

The **Dane County Environmental Council** is currently seeking volunteers interested in serving on the Council. The membership of this county committee includes one County Board Supervisor and six Dane County resident members. All members are appointed by the Dane County Executive. The Environmental Council meets monthly to advise on environmental matters; educate on the protection of natural resources; and promote awareness, conservation, and preservation of Dane County's natural resources. For more information on the Council visit: <https://environmentalcouncil.countyofdane.com/> and to submit a membership application, complete an online application here: <https://dane.granicus.com/boards/w/4d5ebc9bd2aa4f36> by clicking the red 'Apply' button to the right.

Thanks for considering this!

Signature Project Progress

This year we were able to purchase and plant 640 prairie plants using grant funds originally awarded last year. We also received plants started by the Dept. of Corrections as well as some stressed surplus plants from Plant Dane.

Thanks to the timely rains, the new plants are doing well, and so are parsnip, thistles, Japanese hedge parsley, Queen Anne's lace, and bird's foot trefoil, to name a few. We have two new areas to patrol in addition to the second pollinator garden and the newly planted sensory garden.

If we could get some volunteers to weed for just an hour, it would make a huge improvement. We have added a short work session on Tuesdays from 5 to 7pm to our customary first and third Fridays from 9am to noon. We've been partnering with Dane County staff to make tools, water, plants, and leadership available at these sessions. The schedule and inclement weather information is available on the [Friends of Capital Springs Recreational Area website](#), or contact Percy Mather (608) 233-1955.

