

# MAMGA Newsletter

July 2022



New Life Lavender Tour  
Photo by Percy Mather

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## **President's Column**

by Ed Meachen

After working in your own gardens and volunteering in other gardens, you deserve a break as we begin the month of July. The annual Olbrich garden tour is taking place in Oregon,

Wisconsin, and three of the homes on the tour are owned by master gardeners. The tour is Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. By the way, you might want to visit the newest art gallery in Dane County, located right downtown in the “tin man” water tower pump house. The gallery is managed by “14 South Artists,” a non-profit that decided to staff the gallery both days of the Olbrich garden tour.

You might want to sign up for a guided tour of the renovated Badger Ammunition land. That tour will be Wednesday, July 13 starting at 9:30 at the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance visitor center. Once you arrive, we will have a bus tour with guides from Badger History Group. After the tour we will drive over to Wollersheim Winery for lunch. More information on signing up in Eventbrite is in this newsletter.

Or you might want to do a tour of the Extension Teaching Garden on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. I don't know if the greenhouse construction has begun, but the teaching gardens are lovely and we will provide a picnic lunch for all attendees. Information about signing up for this tour is also below in the newsletter.

Finally I have a garden story to end on. I have a small orchard with 13 varieties of apples (I've always been a sucker for heritage trees). Last year we had failed pollination due to the weather and had very few apples. This year, every apple tree has some apples. Many apples on some. But in doing spraying and clean up, between the apple trees and a cornfield, I discovered an incredible stand of cow parsnips, about 5 yards long, 3 yards deep, and 7 feet tall. I don't know how I missed it, but there it was in all its evil glory. Instead of trying to cut it down right now, I might use it as an example to the grandkids or other visitors as a plant not to be touched.

I hope you all have a great July with weather that allows you to get out there in your own garden, and maybe do some volunteering as well.

[Editor's note: See this document to learn the difference between cow and wild parsnip and other look-alike plants:

<https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/LandConservation/Brochures/WildParsnipLook-A-Likes.pdf>]

## Calendar Events

The Tree ID event in the UW Arboretum was rained out a second time. Watch for an email with information about rescheduling.

### **July 8 & 9 Friday & Saturday Olbrich Garden Tours 9am – 3pm**

This fundraising tour features seven rural gardens and a prairie restoration near Oregon. To purchase tickets and get more information, see [this website](#).

**July 13 Wednesday 9:30am – 12:15pm. Tour of the renovated Badger Army Ammunition Site, Sauk Prairie.** This includes the Badger History Group Museum and the beautiful lands of the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area. There are 7,300 acres. We will rent a school bus at \$5 per person to drive thru the area. Afterward, we will have lunch at Wollersheim Winery on



our own. Register and get additional information at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-of-the-renovated-badger-army-ammunition-site-tickets-350818235787>

**July 16 Saturday 11 am. UW Extension Teaching Garden tour and luncheon.** MAMGA members are invited to the UW Extension Teaching Garden for a luncheon and tour. Come see what has changed! Every year so much happens in these gardens! Don't miss this opportunity for a guided tour and luncheon provided by MAMGA. Maybe you'll see the beginning of the greenhouse construction! Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-teaching-garden-tour-and-luncheon-tickets-350821365147>

### **August 13, Saturday 10am – noon Tour of Agrecol**

Join the behind-the-scenes tour of Agrecol's greenhouse and seed production led by Assistant Greenhouse Manager Avery Johnson. The tour is followed by lunch. Limited to 25 people. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-of-agrecol-a-native-seed-and-plant-nursery-tickets-375576538537>

**Employment (\$) and volunteer (V) opportunities** are listed on the MAMGA website under [Resources](#). MAMGA lists that information as a courtesy to our local organizations, businesses & employers. Feel free to pass this information to anyone who might be interested in employment or volunteering.

<<(\$) We are in need of a master gardener to help get our yard in order. We can pull weeds etc. but I'm afraid we mistakenly remove flowers. The hourly fee is negotiable.

The previous owner of our house was a master gardener and we have have owned our house now for seven years. I am disabled and my wife works full-time, so I'm sure you can imagine the state of our yard.

It would be great to have somebody who knows their plants, and can help us plan a less labor-intensive garden, and has thoughts on where to plant some trees, since we have lost two. Our home is located on the westside of Madison, in Parkwood Hills, near Owen Conservancy Park.

Email to [pantoga.c@gmail.com](mailto:pantoga.c@gmail.com) >> Posted June 1

(\$) Local garden designer and landscape architect is looking for an experienced plants-person who can help with some paid hours every couple weeks manage and improve a small sized (400 square foot) near-west Madison Butterfly Garden that was installed in 2017. The property owners are a wonderful couple to work with. Set your own schedule, help suggest plant additions as we work together to reduce some species from taking over and increasing the diversity and display.

Call/text/email Peter Nause 608.206.1463 [secnatland@yahoo.com](mailto:secnatland@yahoo.com)

### **Volunteer Opportunities (V)**

(V) Lakeview Library, located on the northeast side of Madison, is looking for a master gardener volunteer to facilitate garden planning, maintenance, and education in our garden space.

#### About the Garden

The library's garden consists of a 36' x 20' enclosed space, with an additional 36' x 3' bed outside the fence. The space contains a path and patio with outdoor seating. Currently, the garden is largely dedicated to ornamental flowers, but we are interested in adding a container garden for growing vegetables. We also plan to manage a native plant garden in the bed outside the fence.

#### About the Position

##### Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Designing and planning
  - Evaluate garden space and make recommendations
  - Work with library staff to choose ornamental annuals, perennials, and other trees/shrubs appropriate to the conditions of the space
  - Create a map of the garden for current and future use
- Maintenance
  - Create a care and maintenance plan for the garden space
  - Work with garden volunteers to maintain garden space year-round
- Education
  - Work with library staff to plan educational opportunities in garden space

Reach out to Hannah Majeska, Community Engagement Librarian, at [hmajeska@madisonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:hmajeska@madisonpubliclibrary.org) if you are interested in this opportunity. Please include a description of your background and experience, as well as a short statement about your interest in the space.

Pronouns: she/her 608-246-4547    Posted July 1

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We have a publicly accessible approx 500 sq ft courtyard garden at Grace Church at 116 W. Washington Ave - at the top of West Washington Ave, just off the Capital Square. You can see it at Catherine H. Colman Garden visible on Google Maps layers display. It opens just off the sidewalk. The garden is open to the public and it is used extensively by passersby who want some peace, beauty, and solitude. We are trying to find persons expert in gardening who

might be willing to volunteer some time to advise us and also assist occasionally if possible.  
Thanks for your assistance,  
If interested, please contact John Andrews at [jherricka4@gmail.com](mailto:jherricka4@gmail.com)

Posted July 1

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## **(V) Volunteers Sought for Jumping Worm Survey in September**

### Earthworm Survey

Brad Herrick and the UW Arboretum are looking for interested volunteers to offer their property(ies) to be surveyed! No knowledge of earthworms is necessary and in fact we DO NOT want to know if you have jumping worms or not! In addition, we are looking for volunteers to assist with the surveys. If you are interested in participating in this project and learning about what types of earthworms you have on your property or if you have any questions, please contact Brad Herrick, 608-263-7344; [bradley.herrick@wisc.edu](mailto:bradley.herrick@wisc.edu)

What: Earthworm Survey in Rural Dane County

Why: All earthworms in Wisconsin are non-native. While most of the species we are familiar with like the common nightcrawler, are from Europe, a new group of earthworms (referred to as jumping worms) from parts of Asia are now spreading throughout Wisconsin. While European earthworms provide some benefits to soils and plants in gardens and agricultural lands, jumping worms can cause profound changes to soil structure, nutrients, and plants. We are interested in characterizing this new invasion in different habitats (forests, grassland [prairies], open areas [parks], and residential sites with both gardens and turf grass) in the rural environment. (note: a complementary survey will be conducted in urban Madison. This is a follow-up to a survey we conducted in 2017).

How: The surveys will entail pouring a mustard powder and water solution into the soil and collecting earthworms that come to the surface. We would only survey a very small area... less than a 1-yard square area. The mustard solution does not harm plants or soil. In addition, we would like to collect a very small amount of soil (about 1 cup) to test for soil nutrients.

When: The surveys will take place on one weekend day in September 2022. Specific date and time are yet to be determined.



## MAMGA Signature Project Update

Volunteers continue to plant seedlings and remove invasives from the Lussier grounds. Wild parsnip, canada thistle, curly dock, field mustard, reed canary grass, bladder campion and bird's foot trefoil are targeted for removal. We may never remove all of these plants, but we can reduce the seed bank and give native plants a chance to get established. We have two pollinator gardens near the building's entrance which benefited from the attention of B'Ann Gabelt and Dennis Tande, as shown below. Clare Carlson (wearing the white shirt), Dane County naturalist leads a variety of events, many are designed to introduce youth to nature and the great outdoors. Check [the schedule](#) for activities.

