

MAMGA Newsletter

June 2023



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Plant Sale 2023 by Karen Allenstein

The 2023 Master Gardener Plant Sale was a resounding success. This year's sales were 50% above last year's record sales, with more customers than ever. The weather was perfect (no wind or rain). The variety and quality of plants at the sale was impressive.

Approximately 45% of the plant varieties offered were sold in the first hour! Almost all of the annual flowers, herbs and vegetables offered at the sale were grown in our new greenhouse. They were a major draw for customers. The phenomenal success of the 2023 Plant Sale is a reflection of the dedication and enthusiasm of Master Gardeners who supported this event.

With special thanks to the Plant Sale Volunteers: The Plant Sale Committee and I are so grateful for all your help to make the 2023 Master Gardener Plant Sale a resounding success. This year's sales were 50% above last year's record sales. The weather was perfect (no wind). The variety and quality of plants at the sale was impressive.

There are so many tasks that lead up to the plant sale: growing seedlings in our new greenhouse; donating plants from your home; digging, potting; labeling & tidying up plants; creating, laminating & organizing plant signs; planting & weeding in the Teaching Garden before the sale, setting up & taking down on the day of the sale, etc. We appreciate your gift of time, energy, and enthusiastic support.

Thank you for volunteering.

MAMGA's Signature Project Continues at Lussier

MAMGA members and volunteers with Dane County Parks will be continuing their Friday morning workdays from 9:30am to noon. In addition to removing invasive plants such as parsnip, thistle, burdock, birds' foot trefoil, honeysuckle, etc., we will be planting hundreds of seedlings. We have plants ordered from the Plant Dane program that will arrive on May 24th. We expect hundreds of additional plants in June and we will be working through the fall.

Susan Swanson's Photos of the Annual Membership Meeting

<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipP3Xb0VxSXY-mU1hjEcMF43LgOdUNrLPWM-zHE06vQhIrGdsZ9ws1mvJtnPuDsgsw?key=amVTejJPRG16dTMTqNvxeWtGeUZYb21SVHFoRmxR>

Ed Lyon's Talk is Available on YouTube – Deb Pienkowski

We have some good news. With a joint effort between Oakwood Village, WHPS and MAMGA, we were able to successfully record Ed Lyon's lecture on Mail Order Plant Shopping. We had no confidence that we would be able to do this so we did not want to advertise that it would be

available. Oakwood had the equipment to record but had never used it. They were kind enough to practice at an internal event the night before. WHPS provided the expertise to convert it and upload to youtube. Ed's talk was full of excellent information. We hope you enjoy it. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/CsEcf2x0VRM> Handouts for the program can be accessed on the [WHPS website](#).

Calendar of Events

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Friday 9:30am to noon – **Prairie workday at Lussier Family Heritage** at 3101 Lake Farm Road. Tools, rest rooms, and water provided. Bring knee pads if you have them. The workday is canceled in case of stormy weather. For more information, phone or text to 608 520-4364 or email percy.mather@gmail.com

June 6 12:30 – 1:30pm Green Thumb Tuesday 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

June 15, 16 & 17 2023 Dane County Community Garden Summit This annual event is normally held in late winter but this year, four community gardens will be hosting and conducting demonstrations and tours. For more information, see [this site](#) and [register here](#).

June 28 10 AM. Tour of New Life Lavender and Cherry Farm, Baraboo. Lunch following at Driftless Glen Distillery. Limited to 55 attendees. \$20 fee for the tour; lunch not included. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-of-new-life-lavender-farm-tickets-62>

June 28 Wednesday 4 – 8pm Monona/Madison Garden tours. See pp. 4-7 for commentary.

July 15 11 AM - 1 PM. UW Extension Teaching Garden Tour and Luncheon. Free for MAMGA members. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teaching-garden-tour-and-luncheon-tickets-600781061327>
Stroll through the teaching garden and enjoy a delicious lunch with your gardening friends-time well spent!

July 18 Monday 4 -8pm Madison/Middleton Garden tours. See pp.4-7 for commentary.

MAMGA Board Minutes - Draft

3:00 May 15, 2023

UW Extension 5201 Fen Oak Dr. Madison, WI

(EIN 39-1694554)

Board Members Present: Karen Allenstein, Alyska Bailey, Emigh Cannaday, Mary Davidson, Nancy Kieraldo, Ed Meachen, Barbara Park, Dennis Tande, Carol Troyer-Shank **Absent:** B'Ann Gabelt, Judi Janowski

- **Review and Approval of March Minutes** Moved by Barb and seconded by Karen. Approved.
- **Election of Officers** The following slate was proposed and voted on unanimously. President - Ed Meachen, VP - Judi Janowski, Treasurer - Mary Davidson, Secretary - Dennis Tande, Representative at Large/WIMGA Rep - B'Ann Gabelt.

- **Treasurer's Report** Mary had sent the treasurer's report and reported that all looked good. Mary expressed concern with email accessibility and had contacted Emily Myer for access to SquareSpace information and Eventbrite purchases. Emily will check on our Google for Non-profit access.
- **Annual Meeting Summary** Art reported that we did remarkably well on the Silent Auction and sell of Logo items. Next year's Annual Meeting will be held on April 13 at Goodman Community Center. Dennis sent out the survey results, which were all positive, especially the rating of our guest speaker. The only negative was room temperature. Ed asked for suggestions for next year's guest speaker. Topics included gardening in space, limnology, speakers from the Arboretum native plants and Olbrich - Indigenous Gardening. Continue sending suggestions to Ed.
- **Membership** Karen reported that our 2023 membership has grown over last year. We now have 309 members. Karen will work with Lisa to find 2023 graduates who are not current members. She will also discuss with Lisa about how graduates may find information about joining local MG associations, perhaps an automatic check for information, and then opting out if not. Ed will ask Janie to send the MailChimp list to Karen.
- **New Board Interests** We are excited about the enthusiasm for specific MAMGA projects. Nancy has already attended Program Committee meetings and has contacted Prairie Nursery and Neil Diebold. Alyska and Emigh are bringing their technology knowledge to greatly improve our social media presence. They will work on upgrading our MailChimp email and explore alternatives such as Mailer Lite. Ed would like to maintain an email list of 2021-2023 members/past members.
- **Program Suggestions** There are 14 programs scheduled for 2024, including the Annual Meeting and the Teaching Garden picnic. It was suggested that next year's Teaching Garden tour be moved to the fall to promote the garden throughout the year. The Program Committee may consider specifically adding CE certification designation for programs.
Ed is promoting increasing social interactions, particularly for new graduates. This may be in the form of garden visits, bartering services, and establishing a FaceBook group for member interaction. (Yes, Ed, you will have to create a FB account.)
- **Next Meeting** July 17 3:00 at the home of Mary Davidson.
- **Meeting Adjourned**

Volunteer Opportunities

Sandburg Elementary School has a 4 x 16 foot 3 Sisters Garden of Ho-Chunk corn, squash and beans. Our curious students use it in conjunction with our science and social studies lessons, but teachers are stretched extremely thin these days, so we could use help on a few days this May and June to: plant with students, weed and water. The times could be flexible during the school day. It's a lot of fun!

During the summer, we need help with maintenance and watering since there are no students here. We also have some native prairie plants and flower beds in the front of the building that need some care, knowledge and maintenance this spring and or summer. See attached photos, and contact Sarah Thomas at 608-843-7263 if you have any skills or time to donate. We would be eternally grateful!

Sarah Ann Thomas she/her/ella

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Second Grade DLI Teacher

Sandburg Elementary School/ 4114 Donald Dr./ Madison, WI 53704

sathomas@madison.k12.wi.us

(608) 561-3441

Seasonal Employment

If anyone would be interested, I have a home on the west side of Madison (5801 Barton Road). I have planting beds all around the house and it's time to refresh the yard. Some shrubs are overgrown, some have died and need to be replaced. Also some plants have taken over. If anyone would be interested in lending their expertise, I would be happy to discuss payment for their time.

Jane Larson

jjaw@charter.net or 608-514-2325

2023 Garden Tours

June 28 Wednesday 4 - 8pm

Monona Evening Garden Tour– WHPS/MAMGA

Ann Munson – 5304 Midmoor Rd, Monona

My Monona gardens in a 3/4 acre lot, have evolved in 44 years from all lawn to no lawn. My gardens consist of perennials in beds of shade and sun connected by wood chip paths and 2 ponds connected by a stream. I am trying to reduce maintenance and create more wildlife habitat by planting thickly in the beds and adding more native plants. Groundcovers, both native and non-native, cover areas to create green space without having lawn grasses. I use white pine needles from the 7 white pines in the yard as mulch. Once a year I renew the wood chip paths, using wood chips delivered by a local arborist. All the organic matter from the gardens is recycled (except the largest branches which are collected quarterly by the city of Monona). Fallen and pruned branches are used in “dead hedges” and scattered stick piles. Select birch branches are made into “wattle” bed edging. Weeds are placed in compost piles at the rear of the yard.

We added a sunroom/greenhouse last winter to extend the gardening season and are redoing our decks this spring. I will develop new gardens in the areas adjacent to the new decks.

Debra Desmidt – 1007 Progressive Ln, Monona

The best of both worlds, sun in the front yard and shade in the back. Over time our front yard has become a cottage style perennial garden, but six large white oaks in the back and tall pine trees on the side required a totally different approach. We concentrated on developing an understory of white pines, hemlocks, Japanese

maples, hydrangeas, and pagoda dogwoods. Spring is when the back garden bursts with the color of native wildflowers. Later it's a subtle beauty that depends on the form a plant takes, its leaves and texture. Paths wander through the garden floor filled with hostas, ferns, astilbes, and a variety of interesting plants that thrive under these conditions. Our gardens have been on the Olbrich Garden Tour twice, in 1994 and 2006. A garden is never static, continually changing and ours certainly has.

Julie and Andy Witherell – 306 W Dean Ave, Monona

We started gardening on our small city lot 35 years ago. The garden was a blank slate when we began. There were 2 large maples which had to be removed over the past 10 years. We have added trees, a fenced patio area, perennial beds, raised vegetable beds and a garden shed. I am trying to add more native plants, rain barrels and a compost area to be more environmentally friendly. Our garden tends toward a cottage garden style, it is full of lots of colors and types of plants. Parking is available on Schofield and most of the garden is on that side of the house.

July 18 Tuesday– 4:00-8:00 PM Madison/Middleton

Rick Petran – 6109 Quetico Drive, Madison

My groundskeeping of this property began in 2002. The Wright styled limestone house was built in 1981, with garage and garden house added later. The lot is about $\frac{2}{3}$ acre, a deep lot that narrows and rises as it moves away from the street. The garden is very private, being mostly hidden behind the house, making for a quiet peaceful space. Several limestone retaining walls add contrast, with several outdoor seating areas from which to enjoy the view. After moving to this property (my first house, after several condos), I found myself overwhelmed by the scale of the yard.

I turned to Steve Lesch for advice, which has continued as I've taken on garden projects over the years. The focus has been low maintenance perennials- including a variety of yew, holly, peony, hydrangea, hosta, and hellebore. Trees include: Amur cherry, Korean arborvitae, Japanese stewartia, pagoda dogwood, Japanese maple, hemlock, paperbark maple, ginkgo, weeping beech. At the far upper end of the garden is a fenced off orchard area, including raspberries, and peach, apple, cherry and apricot trees. Behind the garden house are a variety of pear trees espaliered along the fence (which refuse to blossom- not enough sun?).

Barbara Borders – 6 Rough Lee Ct, Madison

When I moved to Madison in 2016, my yard and garden was pretty much a blank slate. Two areas in front of the house were covered with ground junipers. Between the ground junipers an area contained four rose bushes surrounded by

cobblestone. When the house was built in the mid-80's a rock wall was built at the west end of the house. I've created one large sunny bed by removing the ground junipers and rose bushes. I've also created a bed extending the length of the rock wall. That area just barely grew grass since it was shady and primarily clay. I continue to add lots of soil amendments to all beds since the soil is predominately clay. In the sunny area I have added some benches to display my Bonsai trees. On the north side of the house I removed grass to make a bed for tomatoes, zucchini and okra. I've created some beds because I continue to add new plants every year and I've expanded other beds because mowing is not high on my list of fun things to do. Someday, I might even be able to retire my lawnmower!

Sue Niesen – 6613 Old Sauk Rd, Madison

Gardening began in the 70's with the love of colors in a small garden. The garden grew each year once I convinced my husband I could take care of what I already have. We have added curbing so I am not tempted to make them larger. There is about 80% perennials and 20% annuals. I start planting seeds I have collected from my gardens in February under grow lights, hoping for germination of more than 40 flats. Some seeds stay true and some are a real pleasant surprise. I choose not to use mulch and enjoy weeding. Maybe some of my Brugmansia will be in color during the tour. You will be able to walk through on homemade pavers my husband and I made in our garage and rolled to their permanent spot. Each one weighs 80 pounds and was a challenge to only move ONCE. What is there to say about a garden? The visual view expresses my love of color and texture – mother nature does it all, I am just the caretaker. Welcome to all.

Linda and Phil Grosz – 4258 Blackstone Ct, Middleton

When we built our home 25 years ago, our goal was to transform our large, vacant lot into a beautiful, tranquil, and wildlife-friendly environment. Our first project was planting nearly an acre of native prairie with species tolerant of heavy clay. Featured in the August 2022 issue of Garden Gate Magazine, the prairie now surrounds our yard with an abundant and colorful mix of wildflowers and grasses that sustain many pollinators.

A stream cascading into a large pond was the next landscape feature we installed, and it has become the focal point of the back yard and a magnet for visiting birds. Over the years, we've added thousands of spring bulbs and perennials, large shade and hosta gardens, as well as a rock garden, herb and vegetable gardens, and a whimsical miniature garden. We've also assembled a diverse collection of conifers, Japanese maples, and garden art. Join us for a glass of wine on the back deck, and enjoy the view of our pond, prairie, and the adjacent Pleasant View Golf Course.