



MAMGA Newsletter June 2021



New plants for the Lussier prairie, this time for 2021
Photo by Percy Mather

In this issue: President's Column
MGV Plant Sale A Success
MAMGA Events
Opportunities for Continuing Education
Lussier Prairie Signature Project Update – Tuesday Evening Work Hours Added
Meet Your Fellow Master Gardener – Joan Flynn

The President's Column

Ed Meachen

I don't know if any of you lost plants in the latest cold snap, the morning of the 29th. Madison has a micro-climate—perhaps from all the asphalt and concrete or the close together buildings—that helps gardeners when the temperature is in the mid to low 30s. But when you live in the country or in suburbia where there's more exposure, a temperature of 35 or 36 can be a death sentence for vegetables and annuals. The temperature near the ground may be 3-4 degrees colder than the thermometer mounted on the window or the fence post indicates. It was touch and go for us out here in the country Saturday morning. I could cover all the pots, but I couldn't cover the 30 tomatoes and pepper plants, the rows of beans, and the basil. On Friday I stopped in at Stoughton Gardens and found their supply of tomato and pepper plants still plentiful, so that in the event of tragedy I could recover. Fortunately I lost nothing even though there was evidence of frost.

Who waits to plant their annuals or vegetables until Memorial Day anymore? That used to be the adage, but even farmers plant in early May these days.



And just as I was pondering the vagaries of nature, I came upon this photo of my parents' house in northwestern Iowa in 1947. May 28th... "our snowstorm in May." Next year I'm still going to plant on May 15th.

A Successful 2021 MGV Plant Sale!

Karen Allenstein

Thanks to all of you for your support and especially the Plant Sale Ninja Warriors. The Plant Sale was a huge success, exceeding our expectations. The plant donations from the Ag Research Station, coordinated by Sharon Wagner, helped us exceed our sale goals. Special shout out to Carol Livingston, Diane Amundson and Alyska Bailey for getting the 300+ plants that were donated by the Ag Research Station potted and ready for the sale.

Our talented cashier team (Lynn, Lynne, Emigh and Alyska) raised an additional \$500+ in donations! To date, our Plant Sale revenues plus donations exceed \$7100, and we will continue to sell plants to Extension employees this week.

The gardens looked fantastic! Lisa and I have never seen so many people touring the gardens on a Plant Sale day. Many of you helped get them in shape before the sale which goes a long way to promoting the Teaching Garden to the public.

Here's the link to the local TV coverage of our plant sale (ignore the fact that the reporter said our plants at the sale had QR codes). The sale photographed well and the weather cooperated!

<https://www.channel3000.com/dane-county-master-gardeners-plant-sale-hopes-people-continue-yard-work-this-spring/>

MAMGA Events

>June 1 Tuesday Green Thumb Tuesday via Zoom 12:30 to 2pm

If you haven't joined the group before, email tipandskip1@gmail.com to receive an invitation. From Art De Smet: Jim Scorgie provided the discussion topics for the upcoming meeting and will lead the discussion. I encourage everyone to review them before the meeting as they will take a bit of research or consideration. If we don't finish them this month we can continue with the list in July. Then in August if I remember correctly, Dana arranged for Green Thumb to be in the Monona Garden restaurant as was done eons ago pre-pandemic.

Discussion topics for June Green Thumb

1. Name an "AHA!" you have had as a gardener.
2. Name two books that you use regularly as resources for gardening.
3. What is your best success/worst failure as a gardener?
4. Is there anything you do as a gardener that might be helpful to us all in our gardening? (your secret know-how)

5. If you are or were a veggie/fruit gardener, what do you do with your produce, either fresh or stored/preserved?

>Starting June 1, Tuesday evening work sessions at the MAMGA signature project are scheduled from 5 to 7:30 pm on the following days: June: 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Check for cancellations to be posted at www.friendsofcapitalsprings.org by 8am. The Lussier Center is at 3101 Lake Edge Road. Meet at the barn. Bring a hat, work gloves, sunglasses, and drinking water. We are planting native prairie plants in two large areas, adding a second pollinator garden and a Sensory Garden which will encourage up close interactions with plants. We have about ten more 32-plug flats to plant and water. Tools, gloves and kneelers are available.

>June 4 Friday 9:00am – noon Lussier prairie work day will take place on all four Fridays in June: 4, 11, 18 and 25. Come for an hour or the whole session. Watch the antics of the purple martins and listen to the cranes while transforming the grounds into a prairie garden.

Continuing Education Opportunities

>June 7 Monday 7 to 8:30pm via Zoom Dr. Brian Hudelson speaks on *New and Emerging Plant Diseases*. This talk is sponsored by UW-Madison Division of Extension La Crosse County. Learn about plant diseases that have recently arrived in Wisconsin and have potential economic and/or regulatory impact, as well as more established diseases that have the potential to significantly impact the state in the near future. To register, visit <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpduGrrjMrHNRSFc5Qg1uXHMLaXdW6fpvg>

Two Plant Health Advisor Zoom Sessions

>June 9 Wednesday 12:30-2 pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/99860588942?pwd=WGdkUDRpMEtsOVZLc04wcDRjdUMwZz09>

Update on Fruit Tree Disease Management

>June 10 1-2:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/99356608681?pwd=T3hmYVF2V0ptZ3V3QTI3MmhZWEZaUT09>

>June 26 Saturday 2 to 3:30pm via Zoom, s presentation by Erin Presley from Olbrich titled Edibles in Every Garden. Register at [Eventbrite](#).

>July 3 Road Trip 11am to 12 noon. Visit the Land of the Giants Hosta Farm, 9106 North Raven Court, Milton WI. Register for this free event at [Eventbrite](#). This trip is limited to 25

people. We will drive independently but will assemble there as a group. Plan to arrive a few minutes early so that we can gather together.

July will see the return of Garden Tours!!

>July 15, Thursday 4 to 8pm Joint WHPS/MAMGA East Side of Madison Garden Tour of four sites. More information will be provided in the July MAMGA newsletter.

July 21, Wednesday, 4 to 8pm Joint WHPS/MAMGA Garden Tour of three sites in the Mount Horeb area. More information will be provided in the July MAMGA newsletter.

Get Your NetID (Sent by Lisa Johnson)

Are you still looking for your new NetID to log into our Canvas Classroom? If you need your NetID, email Mike Maddox in the MGP state office (mike.maddox@wisc.edu), give him your first and last name, and he will resend it to you. Anyone enrolled by March 31 was sent one in early April, but many were missed or deleted. No worries, just follow up with Mike.

Once you get your NetID email, follow the instructions posted on our website <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/2021/03/16/using-canvas/>.

If you have any problems, please contact the Dolt Help Desk (<https://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=1>), tell them you're an L3 (Lifelong Learner) with Extension and they'll get you all set up.

What's in Canvas?

- New Onboarding-Lite course: Highly recommended that you complete it this year. You can claim 10 hours of continuing education even though it will not take you that long.
- Plants-Plus
- WiBee Statewide Projects instructions
- and many other continuing education opportunities.

We'll also put the new Volunteer Vibes and continuing education modules there as they become available. It will be your one-stop-shop for all your learning!

[Editor's Note: I phoned Dolt and was able to get my NetID. Many years ago, I had been a non-degree attendee or Special Student, so this may have complicated the assignment of a unique user name.]

Tracking Progress on the Lussier Prairie Signature Project

The map below shows the scope of the 2021 plans for expansion of the prairie plantings. Dane County staff were unable to burn any of the areas designated for planting, so the second pollinator garden, the Sensory Garden, P2 and P3 were sprayed with herbicide instead. The Lussier Center has parttime interns who are able to help keep the plants in flats watered. They

also remove undesirable plants such as wild parsnip, thistle, and canadian goldenrod. We welcome volunteers to set the plants in ground and help get them established.

At the beginning of June, the pollinator garden and P2 are partially planted. Volunteers will continue setting the new plants in the ground and continue to water them to get them established this growing season. The Sensory Garden is located next to the playground equipment where children will be encouraged to interact with the plantings. Section P2 is 40 ft by 130 and P3 is 140 ft by 80 ft. The areas labelled S1 and N will be seeded next year after being burned or treated with herbicide by Dane County staff.

Area P1 has been planted in 2019 and 2020 without the benefit of burning or herbicide pretreatment. Many plants have established themselves and created a stunning display despite having to compete with the established non-native grasses. However, volunteers continue to work on area P1 to remove invasive plants such as wild parsnip, thistle, yellowcress, Queen Anne's lace, bird's foot trefoil, reed canary grass, and other undesirables. We hope that burning in the future will discourages these plants and allow the natives to

dominate.



Meet Your Fellow Master Gardener

Joan Flynn

by Mary Collet



Joan Flynn is a master at utilizing space. She has transformed a small city lot into a garden of Eden and eating: “It’s all about vegetables,” she says. All of the vegetables are grown from seed in her solarium cum greenhouse. As the winter turns warmer and the days longer, some greens find their way into cold frames. Joan loves trying new varieties. Among the eight types of peppers is Red Sevina, a really hot variety. Rattini, a broccoli-like vegetable, is nestled between Asian greens. Joan’s chockfull garden also includes tomatoes, rhubarb, asparagus, beets, and herbs. Everything looks great thanks to much labor and manure from the backyard chickens Joan bought for her grandchildren. The manure is seasoned in three wooden

compost bins. She grows garlic and sweet potatoes in a community garden plot, alternating them so that the garlic is ready to pick just as the sweet potatoes begin to grow. Another gift to Joan's grandchildren are four apple trees, one for each grandchild; each is a different variety—Arlett, Sweet Sixteen, Russet, and Haralson. To avoid spraying, Joan laboriously places plastic bags over the apples while they are small. Last year, she bagged 1,200 apples! She also has a sweet cherry tree. Alongside the house are raspberries, blueberries, honey berries, and black currants.

Joan has been a Master Gardener Volunteer for 6 years. She tends the Frank Allis School garden. She has also cared for plants in the East High greenhouse, warming and watering seedlings, and keeping the plants alive during the summer. She discussed with teachers what to plant and how to start seeds.

When I asked Joan what she loves about gardening, she said that she enjoys seeing the full cycle, from seed to harvest. Also, "it's all about nutrition."



Above: Bagged apples

Below: Salad bar

Photos by Mary Colet

