

Your monthly e-newsletter from the Madison Area Master Gardener's Association. Click [here](#) to visit the MAMGA website for even more information for local garden events, meetings, and more!

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December 2018 Newsletter



'Tis the Season!

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The President's Message



From Ed Meachen, MGVA

Well, here we are in what seems like mid-winter. Perhaps you got caught by the November ground freeze before you could put your gardens to bed. I definitely did. I ordered my garlic from Jung's this year, and received it in four separate packages arriving at different times. I received the "Musik" bulbs in early October, the "German Porcelain" in mid-October, the "Italian" in late October, and the "Northern White" in early November. It's a good thing I planted them as they came in because by the time I got to the Northern Whites I very nearly could not get them into the ground.

My sister-in-law came back from Holland with 30 tulip bulbs for us, and I managed to get them planted about a week before the ground froze. However, I had to abandon a lot of apples and several gardens. I excused myself by thinking that I already had too many apples and that the gardens overrun with weeds would still be there suspended and waiting to pull out next spring.

On the other hand, the weather is great for pruning fruit trees and lilacs. I try hard not to let the cold keep me indoors, and luckily have enough winter cleanup (dead trees to cut down, bushes to prune, birds to feed,, barn to clean out) to embrace winter rather than curse it.

I love the change of seasons and am thankful I can do other things besides pulling weeds and battling critters.

I wish you all a very happy Hanukkah, Christmas, or other holiday celebrations of the season! I look forward to seeing you all after the new year when our winter programs begin.

To renew your membership if you have not done so yet, please go to:

<http://www.mamgawi.org/mamga-membership/>

Renew Your Membership

The Program Committee has put together an outstanding assortment of programs for 2019. Two new tours will take us to a lavender farm and to the Cambridge winery. Many of the programs earn continuing education credit (ok, maybe not for the winery tour and tasting), so you can easily accumulate ten hours to meet your annual MGVA certification requirement. Renewal couldn't be easier using our website and a credit card or by printing a form and

mailing in a check. Either way, you'll be ready for another year of gardening information, inspiration and education.

Events of Interest to MAMGA Members

Also check the MAMGA [website calendar](#) under Events. Please note that the website has two calendars: one for MAMGA-sponsored events and one for events sponsored by other organizations that may be of interest to our members. MAMGA events are marked with **. Note that Allen Centennial Gardens offers free lectures to its members in January & February. Non-members are charged \$10. An annual membership to ACG is \$40.

**December 4 12:30 - 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday Monona Garden Restaurant

Now that the gardens are asleep for the winter, join other MGVs for lunch, conversation, and fellowship.

There will be no Green Thumb Tuesday lunch in January since the second Tuesday is New Year's Day.

January 12 Saturday 9 - 11am UW Hort Building Growing Food Indoors A Conversation about Lighting & Hydroponics - \$10 Non-members/Free to Allen Centennial Garden members.

January 14 Monday Early Bird Tickets to the Resilient Landscapes Symposium (March 23)

More information about registration will be published in the January newsletter.

**January 19 Saturday - 8:45 11am UW Hort Building Bob Lindmeier speaks on Our Changing Climate

January 26 Saturday 9 - 11am UW Hort. Building Furrows beneath the Forest: Menominee Peoples & Raised Field Ag in NE WI in 800-865 AD) - \$10 Non-members/Free to Allen Centennial Garden members.

**January 30 Wednesday 7-9pm West Madison Ag Station Farm to Table Initiative by Julie Dawson

February 2 Saturday 9 - 11am Hort Building UW Campus Everything You Secretly Wanted to Know about Earthworms by Bernie Williams WDNR - \$10 Non-members/Free to Allen Centennial Garden members.

February 8, 9 & 10 Friday, Saturday & Sunday - Garden Expo Alliance Expo Center

February 16 Saturday (Community) Garden Summit Badger Rock Community Center/Middle School Information will be posted at <https://danegardens.net/>

February 16 Saturday 9 - 11am UW Hort. Building Horticulture Therapy by Mike Maddox - \$10 Non-members/Free to Allen Centennial Garden members.

**February 20 7 - 9pm Wednesday Dane Co/UW Extension classroom CSAs (Community Supported Ag) by Claire Strader

**March 23 Saturday Resilient Landscapes (More information will be made available)

**March 27 Wednesday 1pm West Madison Ag Station Pruning Fruit Trees by Janet Hedtcke

Community Services Grant Application & 2018 Awards Summary

MAMGA is announcing their 2019 Community Services Grant application period, which runs Nov. 1, 2018 to Feb. 4, 2019. The grants help support school and public or non-profit community gardening projects in the Dane County area. We believe these gardens set good examples for educating the public about growing your own food and beautifying our neighborhoods. The grant awards are up to \$500 per project and should be completed no later than fall of 2019.

The link to the MAMGA grant application form can be found on the MAMGA website or here <http://www.mamgawi.org/mamga-grants/>.

2018 Community Services Committee Grant Program Award Summary

The following groups received a Community Services Grant award based on scoring and discussion of the grant review group that included: Jim Scorgie, Carol Troyer-Shank, Mary Pinkerton and myself (Sally Kefer). The grant applicants have been notified and checks sent out by Treasurer Art De Smet.

1. Glendale Switchgrass Bale Gardens REQ \$300/AWD \$300
MG and Contact: Nancy Kieraldo, 608-334-6622

The grant continues from last year's MG grant of placing bales on the periphery of the garden for the purpose of increasing production and controlling weeds. The grant also adds a 4-5 bale growing station to grow vine crops such as pie pumpkins, winter squash and gourds. Work includes continued demonstration and instruction of students and adults about the differences between straw bale and soil gardening. Teachers and students will select straw bale gardens to grow, tend and harvest from a variety of straw bale gardens including Rainbow Pollinator Garden,

Strawberry Parfait Garden, Winter Squash and Gourd Garden, Snack Garden, Red Salsa Summer Garden, Green Salsa Summer Garden, Potato Garden, Pole Bean Garden or Cucumber Garden.

One outcome will be an improved end-of-year mulching using both used and spent bales as brown material for the improved compost site. Adult education of composting methods will be taught at the Glendale Neighborhood Festival in July as well as the October Family Harvest Fest.

2. Refugee Gardening at Marlborough Community Gardens REQ \$432/AWD \$300
MG and Contact: Barbara Park (608) 273-8775

Will cover the expenses for six garden plots at Marlborough Community Garden that will be made available to refugee families new to Madison and who have very few resources. We will work with Open Doors for Refugees, a non-profit volunteer organization that is helping recently arrived refugees to make a home in the Madison area. The grant funds will pay for the plot rental, removable fencing, trellises, seeds, tools, hay bales (mulch), and kneeling pads. Volunteers will work with the refugee gardeners to introduce them to the plants and practices suitable for growing vegetables in our climate. One outcome is interaction among refugees to make them more familiar with each other and gardening in WI.

3. Heal@Gardens: Healthy Eating, Active Learning through Gardening REQ \$490 /AWD \$300
MG and Contact: Shelly Strom, 306 N. Segoe Road, Unit 102, Madison WI 53705

The HEAL@Gardens project will provide 10 community garden plots at Troy Community Garden for three groups:

1. Adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers
2. Military veterans
3. Recent refugees

Grant will provide facilitated weekly garden-based programming for these groups during the growing season (May-October) enhancing access and interaction among the groups.

Programming will be led by volunteers. Weekly topics will include sustainable gardening, healthy recipes, collaborative decision-making, expressive arts (art, music, story-telling), active movement and connections to nature (pollinators, birds, animals, insects).

4. Falk Elementary School Increasing Awareness REQ \$481/AWD \$300

MG and Contact: Anna Biermeier, 608/836-7211

This project expands the gardening area for children with mobility issues. Falk School Garden would convert some of its existing raised beds into beds tall enough and narrow enough for students who use wheelchairs and other mobility devices. The garden currently has three large circular pots that are a good height for wheelchairs. Since students use the garden during the school day, the taller beds will be a benefit to all students – less kneeling on the ground to do their work (back to class cleaner). The neighborhood garden association has expressed an interest in working with the school and, Blackhawk church provides a full day of volunteering to the garden each spring.

5. Gompers Elementary - Gompers Grows REQ \$454/AWD \$200

MG: Deb Pienkowski Contact: Brian Emerson (608)-609-5701

Provide horticultural education throughout the school year with diversity of topics, (starting seeds, soil basics, vermicomposting, growing seasons, weather, harvesting, nutrition and food systems) with demonstration of seeding and seedling growth. Help students tie growing food to individual health and that of the community. “Family Gardening Night” to be held in May.

6. Spring Harbor Middle School Seedlings Learning & Growing REQ \$400/AWD \$300

MG and Contact: Mary Goonan (608)426-040

During the spring and summer students, community members, and staff at Spring Harbor School will learn about starting seedlings indoors using a grow light and all the other conditions necessary for successfully growing seedlings that can later be transitioned to an outdoor garden plot. Earth Day activities in April for student and staff. Garden Camps every 2 weeks throughout summer to tend gardens.

7. WI Heights Community Garden Bean REQ \$377/AWD \$300

MG and Contact: Terri Patwell (608)798-3073

Build a 30 foot bean tunnel as part of beautification and education program with produce distributed to students and local food pantries. Garden members have designed the 30' bean tunnel and with the help of family members will do the installation. Children will plant multi-colored seeds which will grow and hang from the tunnel.

WHCG is working with the elementary schools and libraries in both Black Earth and Mazomanie to drive enrollment of elementary school children in the educational program. WHCG has 2 MGVs and a horticulturalist on their board who will be conducting the programs. The program will be held one Saturday each month from 9am – 11am May – August.

Volunteer Opportunities

School Garden Resources

If you are involved with a school or youth community garden projects, be sure to check for resources and information at: <https://wischoolgardens.org/>. You can also sign up for an electronic newsletter.

East High Greenhouse Volunteer Needed to Work with Special Needs Kids

Our goal is to use the East High School green house to build a sustainable and fun school garden for students with disabilities that delivers essential life-skills training in a meaningful way, offers a sensory enriching environment, and provides opportunities for increasing fruit and vegetable consumption. Our fantastic south-facing greenhouse allows for gardening throughout the school year which is a major advantage in Wisconsin where 3 out of the 5 months in our outdoor growing season are during summer vacation.

Our first year we will establish the garden and implement our plan to sell wheat grass, herbs, and vegetable starters. Long term 3 year goals will be to incorporate compost, worm bins, and grow lights to expand our opportunities for learning. Additionally opportunities to consume fresh food and share it with the rest of the school will strengthen the bridge between the greenhouse and the rest of the student population. Students with disabilities and students with autism in particular have sensory challenges that make it difficult for them to eat foods with different colors and textures. Incorporating fresh fruits and vegetables into their diets is difficult. A growing body of evidence suggests that students with sensory challenges are positively stimulated and more likely to be open to trying new foods (e.g., cherry tomatoes on the vine, pea pods from the bush, fresh spinach and lettuce). For more information, contact Kelley at (608) 204-1783 or email to kohutchisonm@madison.k12.wi.us

What Did I Miss? November 15 Graduation, Celebration & Urban Wildlife

MAMGA & Dane Co/UW Extension organized a celebration that honored the 2018 MGVC Class as well as seasoned MGVCs. The event was held in the Zor Shrine Facility, which will also be the site of the annual meeting on March 30, 2019. Attendees enjoyed cake and snacks while listening to David Drake, UW Extension professor who studies urban wildlife. As the human population increases and people develop natural areas, wildlife are forced to coexist in urban areas. Many wild animals have adapted to urban living and come into conflict with our gardens and fields. Drake described the steps in an escalating response: exclusion (fencing), harassment (owl figures), repellents (soap, predator urine), live trap & relocate (illegal in WI), habitat modification, and lethal options (nuisance species only).

Awards for outstanding contribution by students went to Hilary Kleese for 32.5 hours spent at school & community gardens, Janis Noonan for 31.5 hours spent at the teaching garden, and Sharon Carpenter, who volunteered 86 hours overall.

This year's outstanding MGVCs included Eugenia Beecher (59 hours of youth education); Jan Blakeslee (145 hours of community education); and teaching garden volunteers Karen Allenstein (805.5 hours), Jane Graham (447 hours), and Sue Eagle (369 hours).

UW Extension recognized the outstanding leadership and vision of Ed Meachen, MAMGA President and Deb Pienkowski for her work on the Graduation/Recognition and Program Committees. MAMGA recognized B'Ann Gabelt for her work on the Lussier prairie signature project and the program committee.

MGVs who reached volunteer hour milestones were recognized: Jane LaFlash 4000 hours; Jan Kinar 3000 hours; and Karen Allenstein, Jane Graham and Diane Powelka 2000 hours. Fifteen individuals have volunteered more than 1000 hours: Sally Averkamp, Jan Blakeslee, Diane Chambers, Elizabeth Ogren Erickson, B'Ann Gabelt, Randall Glysch, Libby Howting, Leslie Johnson, John Kastl, Percy Mather, Francis McGuire, Bonnie Mitchell, Ann Munson, Deb Pienkowski, and Shari Voss.

The evening reminded us how important our volunteer activities are to our communities. Congratulations and thanks to all!



Lisa Johnson and many of the newly graduated MGVs



Karen Allenstein, Ann Munson and Marc Nielsen enjoy the evening.



Thanks for being a part of MAMGA. For questions about renewing your membership, upcoming events, and more, we encourage you to visit our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, and to contact us anytime at info@mamgawi.org



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WEBSITE



CONTACT

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