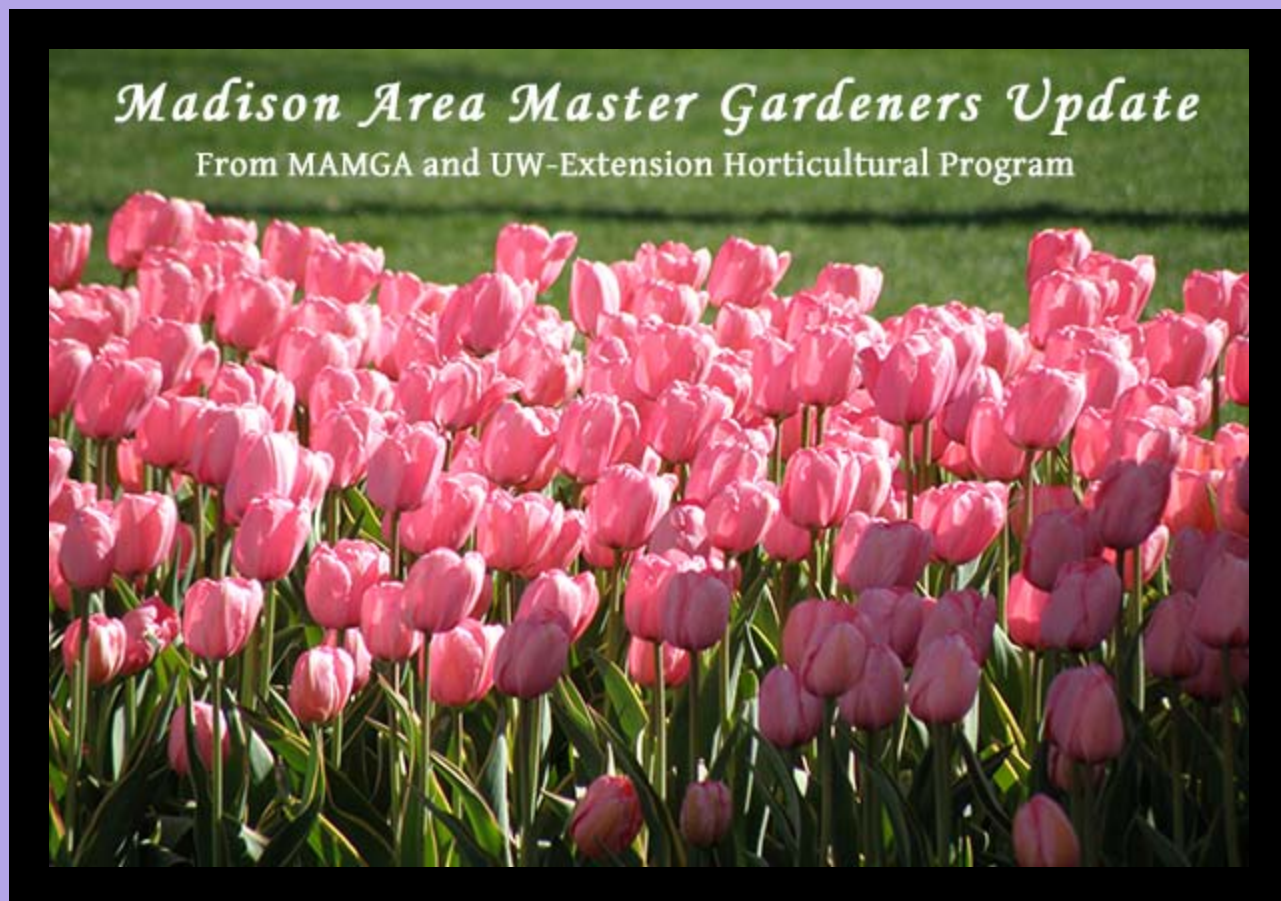


ADDRESSING THE MONTHLY HAPPENINGS OF THE MADISON AREA MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION & DANE CO. UW EXTENSION HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

APRIL 2014



Quote of the Month

***"The glory of gardening: hands in the
dirt, head in the sun,
heart with nature.***

***To nurture a garden is to feed not just
the body, but the soul."***

Alfred Austin

The President's Message
from Catherine Murray



It may not feel like it everyday but we are warming up and gardening season will soon be here – time to start thinking about what plants you want to try where and what new tools you may need. This spring, MAMGA will also continue its work to identify what to plant where (how best to support members of the association) and what new tools we may need (new endeavors we may want to consider for the future).

I'd like to welcome new MAMGA Board members Percy Mather, Ed Meachen, Bonnie Mitchell and Dennis Tande - all elected at the annual meeting in March. And welcome back Cathy Cryor Burgweger who is returning for another term. We have one alternate Board member position yet to fill in place of Paula Lenius who decided to withdraw her name from nomination for another term due to other obligations. Our thanks go to her for the work she did while on the Board.

I'd also like to take one more opportunity to say a big Thank You to Mary Burke, who will not be returning to the Board this year. Mary was instrumental in helping to grow MAMGA's membership and organizing our resources in her roles as Board member, president and secretary over the past 6 years. Her presence will definitely be missed!

For those of you who were not able to attend the annual meeting, we had 108 people registered and 98 in attendance. We had a delicious meal, time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, and learned how phenology is used to document (and may even be able to predict) the effects of climate change. Thank you to all who did attend – we will share feedback from the surveys you completed soon. Watch the website for updates (www.mamgawi.org).

Once again, remember that there are many options for projects or committee assignments available for those of you who want to take part in planning events or future endeavors of the organization. If you are interested in getting involved, please email mamgamail@yahoo.com. As always, there are a number of educational and social events on our calendar and we hope to see you at one (or more) soon!

Happy (soon to be) Gardening!

Catherine

The Extension Express

From Lisa Johnson
Dane County UWEX Horticulture Educator

Table of Contents

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Forms

[2013-14 MGV Hours Reporting Form](#)
[2014 MAMGA Membership Form](#)
[2014 Volunteer Interest Form](#)

Calendar of Events

~local events of interest~

For reporting purposes:

Items in green count as CE credits for re-certifying MGVs.

Items in red count as a MAMGA event.

April 1

Green Thumb Tuesday/
Plant Propagation Workshop
Monona Gardens Restaurant
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
6501 Bridge Road, Madison

April 4, 7-9, 15, 17-18

Seeding sessions
See article "Extension Express" for times
Extension building
5201 Oak Fen Ct.

April 8

EAB training for MGVs
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Extension building
2 CE hours

April Thursday evenings

Organic vegetable short course

Teaching Garden

I saw my first robin here on Sunday! I've also seen a lot of rabbit, deer and vole damage. The cranes are back, and I even heard a couple of intrepid (or foolish) frogs singing on one of the warm days last week. I haven't been out to the woods yet to check on our garlic mustard population, but it's probably starting to come up (darn it). We are continuing to plan the 2014 Plant Sale Sunday May 18. We need folks who are willing to help dig, and plant donations. If you are interested in helping, please contact Haley Hart at packfan7378@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Programming Potpourri

We have still got programs coming out of our ears!! Here are a few upcoming opportunities:

Organic Vegetable production short course: See the flyer at our website <http://dane.uwex.edu/>. This course is on Thursday eves at the office 6:30-8:30 starting March 27, and continuing through April 24. Topics are soils, organic insect control, weeds control/cover crops, organic disease controls and a session on techniques and tips. The full course is \$40 or \$12 per session.

EAB Training for MGVs: This event is especially important for Plant Health Advisors to attend, but all MGVs are welcome. It will be held at the office on Tues April 8, 6-8pm and will cover life cycle, symptoms, control options and resources. This is a free training. It counts for 2 CE hours for re-certifying MGVs.

Farmer's Market Training: If you'd like to volunteer at the farmers markets as part of our Ask-A-Master-Gardener program this summer, we are holding a training twice on April 16. You can either come to the morning session 9:30-11 or the evening session 6:30-8pm. This is a free training and counts for 1.5 CE hours for re-certifying MGVs.

PHA Breakfast and Refresher: Plant Health Advisors annual refresher and breakfast will be held on Thurs April 10, at the office from 9-11:30. We hope to open up the Horticulture Helpline on April 17, so this is a good time to review as the season opens! This is a free training and counts for 2.5 CE hours for PHAs.

Volunteer Opportunities

1. Our spring seeding season has begun here at the office. I'll have **seeding opportunities** on April 4 11-3, April 7 noon-

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
<http://dane.uwex.edu/>

April 10

PHA Breakfast & Refresher
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Extension Building
2.5 CE hours for PHAs

April 16

Farmer's market training
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Extension building
1.5 CE hours

April 30

Landscaping Basics Seminar
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Fitchburg Library
5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

June 2

Agrace Hospice Garden &
Grounds Tour
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

June 21

Teaching Garden Work Day &
Luncheon
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
5201 Fen Oak Court, Madison

June 23

How to be a better nature,
landscape & flower
photographer
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
5201 Fen Oak Court, Madison

July 14

MAMGA/WHPS Evening
Garden Tour
Windsor

July 21

MAMGA/WHPS Evening
Garden Tour
Black Earth/Mazomanie

Late July/early August

Four Elements Herbal Farm
Tour

3, April 8 2-5, April 9 1-4, April 15 11-2, April 17 1-4 and April 18 noon-4.

2. I need a **volunteer to coordinate the MGV speakers**, their supplies and equipment. This person would send out an email to our speakers list when I get a request (that I pass to the coordinator) and book speakers to speak on particular topics. This is heaviest in spring and goes down after May (so far in our 3-year history). They then need to email or phone the venue and communicate who the speakers are, make sure the venue or the Ext office has the equip that date and time and arrange for handouts/demo materials to be ready which may involve a trip to the office here or may not. I need to be informed as well. This person needs to check/send email often and communicate well.

3. I am also looking for **2 certified MGVs to act as co-leaders to coordinate the farmers' markets** where we currently have Ask-A-Master-Gardener booths. Rosanne Horne, who has labored long and hard the past two years to set up a system for getting the markets covered is stepping down. I want to thank her so much for all her hard work. She has left in place a solid foundation I hope to build on.

4. I am also looking for MGVs to volunteer as non-coordinators for any of the dates below. I want to have at least two on any date. I am also offering this opportunity to new MGV students, but you will not be expected to answer questions, but to help set-up, clean-up and observe. There is a training on working at farmers markets as an MGV that we offer twice on April 16, 9:30 am or 6:30 pm. For farmers' markets that would be good to have, and it counts for CEUs for re-certifying MGVs. If you can do the Plant Health Advisor training in fall 2014 that would be great. PHA training also counts for CEUs, but participants are expected to volunteer at the markets or the Horticulture Helpline at the office or other venues answering horticulture questions. The markets are:

Monona Ahuska Park on Broadway Sundays 10-1, May 4, 18; June 1, 15; July 6, 20; Aug 3, 17; Sept 7, 21; Oct 5, 19

Stoughton FM Stoughton Plaza 1050 W Main St Fridays 8-11am May 2, 16; June 6, 20; July 4 (maybe we cancel this one), 18; Aug 1, 15; Sept 5, 19; Oct 3, 17

Sun Prairie Main and Church St behind City Hall Saturdays 8-11 May 3, 17; June 7, 21; July 5, 19; Aug 2, 16; Sept 6, 20; Oct 4, 18

Westside Farmers Market at DOT, Segoe & Sheboygan Saturdays 8-11 May 3, 17; June 7, 21; July 5, 19; Aug 2, 16; Sept 6, 20; Oct 4, 18

Job description for co-leaders (2 certified MGVs for each market): communicate with the market

August 12

West Ag Research Station
Tour
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

September 14
MAMGA picnic

[More Wisconsin Events](#)

Also see "Events" column

Contact Info



MAMGA

P.O. Box 259318

Madison, WI 53725

Phone: (608) 224-3721

Email: mamgamail@yahoo.com

Website: www.mamgawi.org

MISSION

Dedicated gardeners promoting responsible gardening through education, volunteer service, and fellowship.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Catherine Murray

Cheri Schweitzer

Cathy Cryor Burgweger

Aleta Murray

Steve Hoffland

Dana Warren

Percy Mather

Dennis Tande

Bonnie Mitchell

Ed Meachen

Vacant, Alternate

Lisa Johnson (Ex-officio Advisor)

COMMUNICATIONS

Joan Fitzgerald, E-News Editor

mgvjoan@gmail.com

MAMGA is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization.

coordinators 2 times a month 10 days before the market day, coordinate getting MGV volunteers and communicating with them about supplies levels (folders of educational stuff here at the office), making sure there are volunteers for each date and taking a few of the dates themselves (not more than 3 unless desired). So for co-leaders maybe 6-8 hours a month--depending on how many markets you attended and how long communicating by email to get volunteers took. You need to wear a badge and will get a T-shirt to wear at the market provided to you for free.

Job description for volunteers: Pick up materials at the office. May include lightweight chairs and a table, a sign and educational folder. Provide your own water and sunscreen. Set-up, answer questions and interact with the public, track number, gender and best-guess ethnicity of people you interacted with on a provided form (we are required to track this info), keep co-leaders informed when your educational materials folders need re-filling. Return materials to the office. You need to wear a badge and will get to purchase a T-shirt for \$7 if desired after a full shift.

5. I am also looking for people to make a schedule of educational displays (i.e. factsheets to go in the acrylic 8.5x11" stand for each market — example, Japanese beetle factsheet for July) and keep the folders filled with materials. Some of this can be done at home, for people with a creative bent and an interest in research.

This can be a lot of fun. I have heard great things from MGVs who volunteered at the markets in the past 2 years. I hope you will enjoy it too. The speakers bureau and MGV volunteers at farmers markets, the Helpline and schools are among the most high profile, visible and high impact opportunities we have. It is very important that we keep these initiatives going. Thanks for all your work and let me know if you have questions.

Due to space, I am not including the Hort short for this month.



Thank you!

Many thanks go to March volunteers: Percy Mather, Ritchie Rheäume, B'Ann Gabelt, Mary Pelzer, Marilyn Sallee, Luba Konowalskyj, Jane Gahlman, Lynne Berton, Barb Klasinski, Holly Walker, Monica Jaehng, Jon Daugherity, Joanne



MAILING ADDRESS

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Phone: 608-224-3715

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Program Coordinator

Youth Educator

GROW Leader

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Dr. Susan E. Rice Mahr

Master Gardener Program

Coordinator

Phone: (608) 265-4504

(FAX: (608) 262-4743

semahr@wisc.edu

Mike Maddox

MG Program Director

Phone: 608-265-4536

mike.maddox@ces.uwex.edu

WI Master Gardener website:

<http://wimastergardener.org>

MG Program Office Blog

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimastergardener/>

INCLEMENT WEATHER
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
MAMGA EVENTS

Please note that event
cancellations or other inclement
weather announcements for
MAMGA events will be posted on
our [website](#).

Did you miss a past
e-newsletter?

Weber, Jane Prejean, Deb Pienkowski, Janie Starzewski, Peg Schumann, Lisa Mlinar and Jackie Winchester.

We couldn't do it without you!



Green Thumb Tuesday

~~a get together for MGVs~~

Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Monona Gardens Restaurant
6501 Bridge Rd, Madison



Topic: Plant Propagation- Geranium Cuttings
Workshop

Come for Green Thumb Tuesday mingle with fellow master gardener volunteers and really get your green thumb on!

The propagation of soft tissue cuttings is an easy way to increase plants such as begonias, geraniums, impatiens, 'Christmas cactus' and more. Percy Mather will demonstrate how to turn that leggy plant into multiple new plants! Bring a suitable houseplant (from the list above) if you have one. We will learn how to propagate all of the above mentioned plants. Each guest will take home an envelope with a tsp of fresh rooting powder and a cutting in a pot.

Percy will also share her experience with over-wintering geraniums as pulled plants. No window space needed! You can dry them in the basement until February - March!

Come join us for a fun night of gardening that doesn't require the snow to melt!

Look forward to seeing you there! Need more information?
Call Dana at 608-833-5703.

Events of Interest in 2014

Mark your 2014 calendars for the following events not sponsored by MAMGA or the

If you didn't receive one of our past e-newsletters, be sure to look in your "spam" or "junk" folder. Some email applications mistakenly place emails in these folders.

If you use Gmail's new design, you may have noticed that your emails are now being sorted into three tabs — Primary, Social, and Promotions. If you'd rather see the emails we send end up in your Primary tab, it's simple to tell Gmail where these emails should go. Simply drag and drop this email into your Primary tab and click "yes" when Gmail asks if you'd like future messages from this email address to go to your Primary tab.



UW Extension.

Indian Hills Garden Club will hold its 8th annual plant sale from 8 am to 2 pm on Saturday, May 17th at Spring Harbor Middle School, 1110 Spring Harbor Dr. (just off University Ave.) Madison. Reasonably priced, healthy perennials from the garden club members' own gardens are for sale. WI native and shade-tolerant plants are identified. Proceeds from the plant sale benefit neighborhood parks and non-profit organizations. For additional information, please contact Shary Bisgard at 233-1238 or Jeanette Tierney at jeanette.tierney@gmail.com.

All About Herbs Lecture Series - 2014
Sponsored by the Herb Society of America –
Wisconsin Unit AND Ozaukee Master Gardeners
Dates: April 10, May 1. [View schedule and event details.](#)

Upper Midwest MG Conference
June 25-28, 2014

You won't want to miss the Upper Midwest Master Gardener Conference June 25-28, 2014 in Bettendorf, Iowa. Keynote and featured speakers are already lined up for the conference. Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer-Ogden, authors of *Plant-Driven Design* and *Passionate Gardening* will both be speaking at the conference. Felder Rushing, author of *Garden Hearts*, *Bottle Trees*, and *Slow Gardening* is another of the keynote speakers. Melinda Myers, contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and author of more than 20 garden books will be a featured speaker. Check out the [conference website](#). Registration has begun. You can also Like the [Facebook page](#) for the conference to follow developments.



Volunteer Opportunities

We are fortunate to have a large number of volunteer opportunities available for the coming growing season. Please review what's available and consider volunteering.

1. Seeding opportunities: The spring seeding season has begun here at the office. Lisa Johnson will have seeding opportunities on April 4 11-3, April 7 noon-3, April 8 2-5, April 9 1-4, April 15 11-2, April 17 1-4 and April 18 noon-4. Contact Lisa by clicking [here](#) or call her at 224-3715.

2. Lisa needs a volunteer to coordinate the MGV speakers, their supplies and equipment. This person would send out an email to our speakers list when she gets a request (that she passes to the coordinator) and book speakers to speak on particular topics. This is heaviest in spring and goes down after May (so far in our 3-year history). They then need to email or phone the venue and communicate who the speakers are, make sure the venue or the Ext office has the equipment that date and time and arrange for handouts/demo materials to be ready which may involve a trip to the office here or may not. Lisa needs to be informed as well. This person needs to check/send email often and communicate well.

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Glacial Drumlin School in Cottage Grove is seeking volunteers to help with the school garden.

You may choose your involvement level. Options include, joining the garden planning committee, plan/host activities to get the students involved in the garden, stop by when you have free time to help do maintenance, pick a summer week to water, or get added to our email list to be notified of group garden work nights. Please email Beth at ebdolan@charter.net if you would like to help.

Job Title: Volunteer Coordinator of Heirloom Vegetable Garden at Schumacher Farm Park

Description: Schumacher Farm Park seeks a volunteer to coordinate its heirloom vegetable garden. The garden is filled with varieties typical of the Great Depression era and is used to educate the public about early gardening practices and varieties.

About the Park: Schumacher Farm Park is a 100-acre open-air museum and conservancy dedicated to preserving old-time rural farm ways of the 1920s and 1930s. It is run by the Friends of Schumacher Farm Park in cooperation with Dane County Parks and the Marcella Pendall Schumacher Trust. The park is located at 5682 Hwy 19 in Wauankee.

Duties and Responsibilities: Plans garden beds with heirloom vegetables that are consistent with the Great

Depression time period. Purchases seed, plants and other supplies. Works with Waunakee High School students to start plants in greenhouse and to maintain garden beds. Coordinates planting, maintenance and harvest of garden with volunteer gardeners through Adopt-a-Row and fall and spring work days. There are also opportunities to present workshop(s) related to gardening at Heritage Fest, to school groups, and to the general public.

Hours: February - October. Average hours are 15 hours per month with the bulk of the hours during the peak growing season from May-August.

Benefits: Enjoy fresh vegetables, the beautiful grounds, volunteer recognition, contributing to community, learning and educating others about gardening, maintain Master Gardener status.

Start Date: This position starts in Spring 2015. However, the new coordinator can learn the ropes with Mary Collet, our current gardener, in 2014.

Contact/Apply: Send letter of interest that includes your background and skills to Diane Schwartz at 849-4559, or email Diane at info@schumacherfarmpark.org. Feel free to contact her with question or their website at www.schumacherfarmpark.org/heirloom for garden plans and more information.

Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens seeks a Garden Leader. As a garden leader, you will:

- work with dedicated garden volunteers to plant, tend, and harvest vegetables for area food pantries.
- share responsibility for deciding what/where/when to plant, pulling together resources (seeds, plants, fertilizer), operating garden equipment, monitoring plant growth and health, and coordinating work sessions for a designated garden.
- commit to the mission and goals of the food pantry and collaborate with other garden leaders to achieve them.

Reward: Knowing that you have helped provide fresh produce to families who do not have access to an adequate food supply.

The food pantry website (<http://foodpantrygardens.org>) provides information on the operation and purpose of the gardens. To ask questions about the garden lead role, and/or to express interest in becoming a garden leader, please contact Tom Parslow at 608-577-6685, or email at pantrygardens@svdpmadison.org or Phil Cox at 608-835-6559, email drpcox@charter.net.

UW-West Madison Agricultural Research Station University Display Gardens

Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

The University Display Gardens are located at the UW-West Madison Agricultural Research Station, 8502 Mineral Pt Rd, Verona. We maintain a beautiful 8-acre public site that is utilized by students, researchers, citizens, and the horticultural industry. At the garden we perform trials on vegetables, ornamentals, and fruits. In addition, we provide horticultural related outreach and education.

We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities at the gardens. We try to cater to and utilize the specific interests of individual volunteers. Whether you want to help prune and maintain the grapes or other fruits, mulch or thin the perennial ornamental collections, harvest vegetables for the food banks, help set up for public events, or simply spend some time weeding, the gardens provide an array of opportunities.

If you are interested please call Asst. Superintendent Janet Hedtcke at 608-262-2257 Ext 2, or email garden manager Brian Emerson at bemerson@wisc.edu to set up a 30min introductory tour of the garden.

Seeking paid garden assistant: Elderly east side Madison resident seeks someone to help her out in her garden. She anticipates that she would need about 10 hours a week. She cannot manage the yard work other than cutting the grass. She will pay a reasonable wage. She lives off of Fair Oaks Avenue. If you are interested in this job, contact Mary Larson at maryreinholtzlarson@gmail.com.

Note: Certified MGVs may not count hours where you are paid as volunteer hours for reporting purposes.

Ask a Master Gardener (AAMG)



If you would like to be part of the MGV Team that staffs the Ask A Master Gardener (AAMG) booth at local farmer's markets, read on.

How it works: AAMG volunteers should have completed the Core Course and filed volunteer and continuing education hours to maintain certification under UW guidelines. MGs can also volunteer if they are working with Extension to get recertified. The Plant Health Advisor class is good preparation, but not a requirement. Current students are encouraged to sign up, to observe and get comfortable with the Q&A format. Two MGs and one student are scheduled at each Market date.

Ask A Master Gardener (AAMG) Training: If you'd like to volunteer at the farmers markets as part of our Ask-A-Master-Gardener program this summer, we are holding a training twice on April 16. You can either come to the morning session 9:30-11 or the evening session 6:30-8pm. This is a free training and counts for 1.5 CE hours for re-certifying MGVs.

For more information, contact Lisa Johnson, Extension Horticulture Educator (johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com).

Teaching Garden Work Days



Come back here in May for 2014 schedule.

As always, don't forget to record your Volunteer hours so you can report them in October.



Continuing Education Opportunities

Organic Vegetable production short course: See the flyer at our website <http://dane.uwex.edu/> . This course is on Thursday eves at the office 6:30-8:30 starting March 27, and continuing through April 24. Topics are soils, organic insect control, weeds control/cover crops, organic disease controls and a session on techniques and tips. The full course is \$40 or \$12 per session.

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The MAMGA program committee announces a new program offered by one of our very own MGVs:

Landscaping Basics

Date/Time: Wednesday April 30th, 2:00-3:30 pm

Location: Fitchburg Library
Second Floor, Conference Room A/B
5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

In this basic design class, explore different options to tie your

landscape together or add to your existing scheme. Learn the different types of plant forms and texture, how to plan your landscape for 4 season interest (since Wisconsin is in winter for so long, we may as well enjoy it!), and the correct use of plants in the background, mid-ground and foreground. Explore different color scheme options, from monochromatic to using red and orange to make your landscape feel smaller. Finally, learn where certain low maintenance plants and under-utilized plants thrive best in landscapes.

Local MGV Jess Wickland will present the program. She graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a bachelor of science degree in Urban Forestry in 2000. She's worked in many different aspects of the green industry, ranging from plant maintenance crews to garden center. She was a garden center manager in Appleton and started the plant diagnostic program at two different garden centers in the Fox Cities. She worked for the Outagamie County master gardeners, as well as volunteered for the organization after becoming a member in 2009. She worked as the seasonal horticulture assistant at the UW-Extension from 2010-2013. Jess currently lives in Mount Horeb on a wooded lot with very little landscape, but is busy designing new beds and pulling out tired and worn out plants (ie. yews, spirea and barberry) to be replaced this season with new and exciting ones. Jess and her fiance built a 60' long berm on the edge of their property this fall and planted it full of spring blooming flowers. This year she hopes to fill it with perennials and a few flowering shrubs.

Registration is required. Contact Person: Cheri Schweitzer, tenacity@charter.net

The program cost is \$10. Please bring cash or make checks to MAMGA. Credit cards are not accepted.

Website:

<http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/departments/library/index.php>



Garden Reflections

by Joan Fitzgerald, MGV, PHA



I'm sitting down to write this on the first official day of spring, Thursday, March 20, 2014. There are definitely signs of spring all around. Only a few small piles of snow remain in my yard. I can see the green leaves of vinca and lamium peaking through the cold ground. The sun, when it shines brightly, feels warm again. Birds are singing and squirrels are chasing each other up and down trees and across streets.

I stopped at a local garden center today and had to purchase some pansies, even though it's too cold to put them out during the daytime. I believe in past years I've had my first pansy bowl out on the porch by this date in March. I would put it out during the day and back in the house at night. This would go on for two to three weeks until it got warm enough to leave them outside overnight. Of course I always added three or four more bowls as time went on. Pansies are my favorite spring flowers.

I've been browsing internet sites for new plants for 2014 as well as garden art ideas that I can make. I also like to shop local artists once the outdoor art and craft shows gear up for the growing season. Like so many sites on the internet, if I find a site that I enjoy, I usually find at least one more sites to link to. I can spend an hour (or two) clicking around on the internet. Of course, when it's warm enough to get outside I'll have to abandon that task until rainy days or the winter season.

If you're interested in garden art take a look at Junky, Funky, Rusty, and Re-purposed by Sue at www.facebook.com/SuesCountryStore for inspiration and lots of great ideas!

Happy Spring!!

Joan

P.S. I just saw nine robins in my neighbor's yard! Spring has sprung!

Plant of the Month

-- Easter Lily --

Easter Lilies (*Lilium longiflorum*) have large, white, trumpet-shaped flowers with a wonderful fragrance that are a

traditional Easter plant.

Many Easter Lilies were grown by growers located along the border of California and Oregon in an area known as the "Easter Lily Capital of the World". Easter lilies are native of the southern islands of Japan.



Choose an Easter lily plant that will last through the holiday season with these selection tips:

- Choose a plant with flowers and buds in various stages of development from tight buds to partially opened flowers.
- Make sure the foliage is dense with a uniform healthy green color and extends all the way down the stem to the soil.
- Check the plant for symptoms of insects (eggs, webbing, and chewed leaves) or disease (dark spots, crinkling, wilting).
- Select a plant that is approximately two times as tall as the pot. Plants that have outgrown the pot will be stressed.
- All lilies are extremely toxic to cats and can cause kidney failure. Easter lilies will bloom best with the following care tips:
 - Display your plant in bright, but indirect sunlight.
 - Protect your Easter lily from drafts and heat sources.
 - Remove the yellow anthers from the flower centers to prolong the life of the blossoms and to prevent the pollen on the anthers from staining the flowers, your hands, or clothing.
 - Cool daytime temperatures in the 60 - 65 degree F. range will extend the life of the blooms.
 - Water only when the soil becomes dry to the touch but don't leave it dry for an extended period of time. If the lily's pot is in a decorative foil wrapper, be sure water is not accumulating under the pot. More plants die from over watering than under watering.
 - Remove flowers when they fade and wither. Easter lilies can be planted outdoors and possibly bloom again the following season. The success rate is uncertain since all florist plants have been forced into bloom. But with the following tips what's to lose:
 - Wait until all the flowers have withered and been removed from the plant.
 - Keep the plant watered and in indirect sunlight until it is ready to go outside.

- Wait until all danger of frost has passed and find a sunny, well drained spot in the garden.
- Amend the soil with some organic matter, if needed. Soil pH should be a neutral 6.5 to 7.0.
- Plant the Easter lily bulb at the same depth it was planted in the pot.
- Add an additional 2-inch layer of organic mulch. Lilies like sunshine, but cool soil.
- When the original leaves and stem start to brown, cut the plant down to a healthy, green leaf. New growth should emerge from the base of the plant. The plant should grow foliage the first year.
- The new growth will turn yellow in the fall and should be cut back to soil level.
- Top dress the soil with bulb fertilizer or blood meal. Work into surrounding soil without disturbing the roots.
- Apply a few more inches of mulch to insulate the plant through the winter.
- Remove the mulch as the weather warms in the spring.
- Begin applying a balanced fertilizer when new growth appears and monthly until the lily blooms.
- Be patient. It may take a couple of years for the plant to set flower buds. Easter lilies naturally bloom in June/July.



Gardening Tip

The Old Farmer's Almanac offers free, inspiring garden plans for vegetables, herbs, and fruit! The plans will provide the gardener with great examples of garden plans from which to learn and to get inspired.

Plans were created by their own Almanac gardeners!

You'll find plans for gardens that are small or large, shady or sunny, dry or normal, using beds or containers, they have the perfect garden plan for any size yard.

Find the plans at <http://www.almanac.com/content/garden-plans>.



From the Bookshelf

A Sand County Almanac

Aldo Leopold

First published 1949



First published in 1949 and praised in The New York Times Book Review as "a trenchant book, full of vigor and bite," A Sand County Almanac combines some of the finest nature writing since Thoreau with an outspoken and highly ethical regard for America's relationship to the land.

Written with an unparalleled understanding of the ways of nature, the book includes a section on the monthly changes of the Wisconsin countryside; another part that gathers informal pieces written by Leopold over a forty-year period as he traveled through the woodlands of Wisconsin, Iowa, Arizona, Sonora, Oregon, Manitoba, and elsewhere; and a final section in which Leopold addresses the philosophical issues involved in wildlife conservation. As the forerunner of such important books as Annie Dillard's Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Edward Abbey's Desert Solitaire, and Robert Finch's The Primal Place, this classic work remains as relevant today as it was when first published.

Snippets . . .

TERRA COTTA POTS: Are you tired of the look of terra cotta pots? The magazine **Midwest Living** provides a short video describing three ways to give the pots a new look. Find the video by clicking [here](#).

FERTILIZE AND REPOT HOUSEPLANTS: Houseplants are ready to begin growth so repot those that have outgrown their pots or are potbound. Fertilize most houseplants around the beginning of April, May, and June with a general-purpose houseplant fertilizer. Stop feeding foliage plants after that, but continue feeding blooming plants through the summer.

Source: *National Gardening Association's Regional Gardening Report, March 7, 2014 (online)*

SPRING CLEANING YOUR GARDEN:

- Avoid working in your garden or beds unless the soil is dry. You don't want to compact the soil by walking on it, or form hard clods by trying to dig or till too soon. Test your soil's readiness by scooping up a handful and squeezing it into a ball. Drop the ball from about waist-high. If it shatters, it's probably dry enough to work. If the ball stays intact, move on to some other garden chores for now.
- Weeds pop up fast in lawns and gardens when the temperatures rise, so jump on them right away. Use a pre-emergent weed control to get rid of weeds before they've had time to germinate, or a post-emergent if they're already actively growing. Be kind to the earth and use only the chemicals that target your particular problem, and read and follow product directions carefully.
- For organic weed control, use landscape fabric or mulch that blocks as much sunlight as possible. Newspaper, cardboard, a thick layer of bark, dried leaves or weed-free straw and hay are good choices. Later on, you can cut "X's" in the fabric to make room for your plants.
- If the soil is dry enough to move around in your garden, remove the old winter mulch. If it's decomposing, and it's free of weed seeds and hasn't been used around plants that suffered from diseases, it's fine to work it into your soil to help improve it. Replace as needed with fresh mulch. Don't forget mulching your shrubs and trees, too, to help conserve moisture once hot weather arrives.
- Prune your fruit trees before they bud out.

Source: <http://www.hgtvgardens.com/care-and-maintenance/spring-cleaning-your-garden>

ONLINE QUIZES: Do you like the challenge of a good online quiz? *Fine Gardening* online posted a plant quiz in its March 24, 2014 edition. Take the quiz by clicking [here](#). Good luck!

Source: *Fine Gardening*, March 24, 2014

Would you like to try another quiz? The March 2014 edition of State-by-State e-Newsletter contain a plant quiz. Find that quiz [here](#).

Source: [Wisconsin Gardening Newsletters, March 2014](#)

Happy Easter!



Master Gardener Volunteer Profile

-- Jess Wickland --

by Lisa Mlinar, MGV

Jess Wickland is a tree hugger, literally. Her vacation and special occasion photos often include at least one shot of her with her arms around the trunk of whatever tree happened to

catch her eye. One of her aunts and grandmother were gifted with green thumbs, while her mother was quite adept at killing virtually any plant.

Fortunately, Jess does not take after her mother in this regard. But it was not family who sparked her interest in trees. Rather, it was a teacher at West Bend High School. The subject was Foresting, Wildlife, and Waters, and Jess was so inspired by

the class that she pursued a degree in Urban Forestry.

After graduating from UW-Stevens Point, she began working for a greenhouse in Germantown. (Among other duties, she was responsible for starting the geranium plugs in January, an experience that left her hating geraniums to this very day.) She also continued to take courses at MATC-Mequon, her favorites being those taught by Melinda Myers, a well-known horticulturist, author, arborist, and professor.

Jess went on to work in sales and landscape design at VandeHey's Landscape, an Appleton garden center, before taking a job at Oberstadt Landscape and Nursery in Fremont (near Appleton). Eventually she worked her way up to the garden center manager position. She was in charge of ordering nursery stock and merchandise, and she put her

photography hobby to good use. Jess created an album with each plant's description, complete with a picture she had taken of the plant in full bloom. This was a great way for customers to see what they were buying, and helped them pick the perfect specimen.

When clients had problems with their nursery purchases, she would make home visits to see what was ailing the tree, shrub or plant. It was around this time that Emerald Ash Borer was found in Wisconsin and Green Bay. Jess recalls how nearly everyone with a tree problem was convinced it was due to that insect. She was often met with skepticism when she gave a different diagnosis, even when the tree in question was an oak or maple! Perhaps it was purely coincidental, but she turned her focus towards educating others.

In 2009, Jess completed the Outagamie County Master Gardener program, and in Spring of 2010 began working part time as the seasonal horticulture assistant at the UW-Appleton Extension office. This meant a different role at Oberstadt's. She became the Inventory Control specialist. Jess was extremely busy the next few years at the Extension office. Part of the time, she was working or volunteering for the MG program. She tabulated hours, arranged speakers, and worked out logistics for the classes and outings. On the horticultural side, she put together presentations, researched and wrote numerous articles for the newsletter, and answered horticultural questions from March through October. This was a step closer to her dream job of being a tree pathologist. Unfortunately, that lofty goal comes with one not so minor catch: she must work her way up to certified arborist. That requires climbing trees, and she is afraid of heights! She did everything short of crawling up the trunk to help diagnose problems. That included careful visual inspection of the tree as well as taking photos and samples. If a matching problem could not be found in books or on-line at the trusted .edu sites, the sample was sent to Brian Hudelson at the UW-Madison plant pathology lab.

When the Appleton office got a grant from DNR for emerald ash borer education, Jess gave lectures on the subject at garden clubs, the Nature Preserve, and the Botanical gardens. She enjoyed this immensely because she always came away with a new perspective; invariably, someone asked a question that had never before been posed. She also taught classes on native trees and species, landscaping, common plant diseases, and even how to make maple syrup.

Last year, Jess moved to Mount Horeb to be with her fiancé. She started a makeover of their forested four-acre property and was delighted that the deer helped out by eating the yews. (Even a tree hugger has some trees she doesn't like: red pine, cottonwood and box elder are also on the "dislikes" list.) There are plenty of black walnut trees on the land, with

some maples and oaks. She is also purchasing more trees from the Arbor Foundation, including black hill spruce, white and Douglas fir, sycamore, and tuliptree.

She put in a berm, and a hummingbird and perennial garden is in the works, with plans for native and woodland species and one of her favorite ornamental trees, a redbud. She is going to try her luck with borderline Zone 5 plants. Raised beds are also in her future. She intends to grow strawberries, rhubarb, and raspberries, with hopes that the serviceberries will be enough of a distraction for the birds. She knows that she needs (and will necessarily get) more experience with shade gardening.

While she waits for the next job opportunity to come along (she really wants to work in the green industry), she is keeping busy in the off-season by volunteering at the library, the Relay for Life in Mount Horeb (American Cancer Society) and museum in Mount Horeb, as well as working at the local Scandinavian gift shop. It also means a little more time to devote to her photography business: J. Annie Imagery (<http://jannieimagery.weebly.com>).

Her images are described as "A collection of nature, landscape and flower photographs: bringing the quiet side of nature in focus." She prefers photographing the flora and scenery, because plants don't move, but animals do. Plus, the flowers in bloom hang on her walls and make others smile in the cold winter months, often remembering their favorite season. Most of the pictures were taken at botanical gardens, but she always has her camera handy because the perfect opportunity can present itself at any place and moment. She currently spends time hiking around Stewart Lake as well as her own property. Other favorite locales are the Arboretum and Boerner Botanical gardens in Hales Corners. The Janesville Rotary Gardens are on her list of new places to visit.

Jess is looking forward to volunteering in Brian Hudelson's lab, as she finds plant pathology very interesting. She will also start working with Brian Emerson at the Ag Research station, in the insect lab, on the horticulture line, and is on the program committee. She is taking Level 2 on-line courses on trees to fulfill her education hours.

She also reads horticultural magazines to keep current. In addition to being a member of MAMGA, she belongs to the Mound View garden club. She will be teaching a landscape design class at the Fitchburg Library on 4/30, and presenting a Nature Photography class at the extension office on 6/23.

The biggest piece of advice Jess has for those planting trees: water for the first three years. The main reason new trees die is due to lack of watering while the roots are trying to establish themselves. She recommends mulching around the

tree, but does not recommend volcano mulch. If trees are healthy, they do not need to be fed. They will be getting sufficient nutrients from the roots. She does not use fertilizer spikes because they only fertilize the little area surrounding them. For those who want to get rid of invasives, such as buckthorn, she swears by cutting the shrub and immediately painting with Roundup.

One final note about this self-described “super cool high energy tree geek” (her vanity plate is TREE MD): She is about to turn over a new leaf, at least in the book of her life. She is getting married in April, and her new name will be Jess Killingbeck. And yes, the happy couple indeed will be planting a wedding tree in their yard – either a pagoda dogwood or a redbud.



**Stay informed.
Visit the MAMGA website often.
Mamgawi.org**



Dwindling Monarch Butterfly Population

from Jess Wickland, MGV

Having worked and volunteered in the green industry for almost two decades, I've seen a lot of trends come and go.

One that has stayed strong- and possibly continues to grow in interest-



is how to create a garden that attracts butterflies.

Perhaps it's the lazy way the adults seem to float on air, or the gentle opening and closing of their wings as they feed on the nectar of certain plants. For me, I enjoy

watching them because they create a sense of peace as they hover and dance around the joe pye weed (*Eupatorium*), butterflybush (*Buddleia*) and gay feather (*Liatris*).

Earlier this winter, it was brought to my attention that the monarch butterfly numbers have dwindled so much, this year may be the last year we see them here in Wisconsin. I think most people have heard here and there that the orange and black butterfly adults have been having a few rough years and their population isn't as high as it used to be. I didn't

realize things were as dire as they are, however. According to the New York Times' piece done last year at this time, the population decreased 59% from 2011 to 2013. The monarchs used to occupy 50 acres of land in Mexico over the winter, and in March of 2013, it was 2.9 acres. Once the acreage falls to 2.5, experts agree the population may never bounce back.

Changing temperatures and different farming practices have been cited as the cause for the rapid decline in the monarch population. Over the last eight or nine years, the US has been experiencing drought conditions and above average heat. In 2012, the monarch eggs were susceptible to drying out because of how hot and dry it was, resulting in an even more devastating crash than previous years. In addition, the introduction of herbicide-resistant crops, such as soybeans and corn, have allowed farmers to spray herbicides to get rid of weeds in between their crop rows without affecting the crops themselves. Many times, *Asclepias*- the one and only food source for the monarch caterpillars- was destroyed by the herbicides, resulting in a staggering loss of food source for the caterpillars.

You may be wondering what can be done to help these populations. I myself plan to introduce different types of *Asclepias* into my landscape this year. Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) is the first choice of monarch caterpillars to eat after they've hatched from their eggs (which are also laid on the swamp milkweed plants). The dusty pink flowers bloom in mid to late summer and provide a good back drop for shorter plants in a moist or wet area in your landscape.

Many gardeners shy away from planting this variety of *Asclepias* as it can become somewhat invasive if it's not kept in check regularly. An easy way to prevent that from happening, however, is to plant it in a pot instead, and leave the pot among the rest of your flowers in the bed, or even dig the pot into the garden. Either way, the roots can't go beyond the boundaries of the pot, and you won't be digging or pulling stray swamp milkweed out of areas in your landscape it doesn't belong in.

Asclepias tuberosa (butterfly weed, or butterfly flower) is a very hardy native plant that gets brilliant orange flowerheads in mid-summer. This is a shorter variety, only getting about a foot tall and 18" wide at maturity. This *Asclepias* prefers dry, well-drained soil; it's actually native to sandy areas that can be found in the center of our state. Overwatering this plant, especially when first planted, will undoubtedly result in rotting and plant death. The caterpillars will feed on this plant if swamp milkweed is not available to them.

If you're a little more adventurous, you can choose to try your hand at *Asclepias curassavica*, or Scarlet Milkweed. The flowers are a mixture of red and yellow, and the caterpillars will feed on this plant as well. Unfortunately, it's an annual

plant here in zone 5, but after researching it a bit, I've found that it can be brought inside for the Wisconsin winters and brought back out for the warmer summer months.

The Butterfly Lady is giving away free seeds of this plant if you

send her a self-addressed stamped envelope.



In addition to free seeds, The Butterfly Lady is also offering to send eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalis of monarch butterflies to everyone in the US. They are free, she just asks that people pay the shipping and handling cost. As she states on her website, many Asclepias plants are

dotting landscapes but no monarchs are in sight to feed on them. We may as well bring the butterflies to their food source, increasing the chances of the monarchs making a trip from Wisconsin to Mexico again next winter.

To find The Butterfly Lady on the internet, type in her website address <http://butterfly-lady.com>, or type in "the butterfly lady" to an internet search engine, and her home website should come up. She has a lot of great information on her site about different butterflies, their host plants and nectar sources, as well as more information about the declining monarch population. I encourage you to go to her site and read more about the magnificent dancing butterflies.

As one single person, I know I can't make a huge difference in the population all by myself. However, by creating a space where monarch caterpillars can feed, and the adults can flutter peacefully by their chosen nectar sources, I think it's a good step in the right direction.



What's the Difference Between MAMGA,
WIMGA & Certified Master Gardener
Volunteers?

MAMGA, the Madison Area Master Gardeners Association, is a local non-profit organization of persons who have completed the basic Master Gardener training course, or are current students. MAMGA members may or may not also be currently certified Master Gardener Volunteers. MAMGA exists to provide education, service, and fellowship opportunities for its members. Membership costs \$15 per year. MAMGA members receive discounts at many local nurseries, participate in educational programs and garden tours throughout the year, and are invited to social events.

WIMGA, the Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association, is a state-wide non-profit organization of persons who have completed the basic Master Gardener course, or are current students. Most MAMGA members also choose to join WIMGA, but doing so is not required. WIMGA membership costs \$5 per year. WIMGA members receive periodic newsletters and other informational communications from the state master gardener office. WIMGA also hosts a statewide master gardener conference each year.

Certified Master Gardener Volunteers have completed the basic Master Gardener training course and have satisfied annual volunteer service and continuing education requirements. Most Certified Master Gardener Volunteers choose to join MAMGA and/or WIMGA, but are not required to do so. There is no cost to be certified as a Master Gardener Volunteer. Certified Master Gardener Volunteers assist gardeners through the local UW-Extension Office by serving as plant health advisors, answering hotline calls, tending the Teaching Garden, and performing various other activities that support the UW-Extension Horticulture Program and reach out into the community. Certified Master Gardener Volunteers also perform lots of other gardening outreach and service at places like University Display Gardens, Allen Centennial Garden, Olbrich Gardens, the UW Arboretum, churches, community gardens, and many other venues.



University of Wisconsin-Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA.

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