

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

MAY 2014



### ***Quote of the Month***

"The world's favorite season is the spring.  
All things seem possible in May."

- Edwin Way Teale

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#### The President's Message

from Catherine Murray

Greetings!

The MAMGA Board has elected its officers for 2014. I will stay on as President, Ed Meachen will be President-Elect, Cathy Cryor-Burgweger will remain the Treasurer and Dana



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Warren will be filling in as Interim Secretary until Percy Mather takes over that role. The Budget & Finance Committee has three new members and the Program Committee has a number of members and sub-committees, each working on one or more of the many events they already have scheduled. Other standing committees include Membership, Community Services and the newly created Communications Committee.

If you are interested in getting involved in projects or committee assignments, now would be an excellent time to contact us so that you can be involved in the planning and development stages of projects for the upcoming year. Time spent on MAMGA committees counts as hours for re-certification and is a great way to meet other MGVs as we support our members, our association and Extension to accomplish goals.

If you would like more information or to get involved, please email [mamgamail@yahoo.com](mailto:mamgamail@yahoo.com). You can also talk to any of the committee or Board members at our events, which are listed on the calendar at [www.mamgawi.org](http://www.mamgawi.org).

Happy Gardening!  
Catherine

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## The Extension Express

From Joe Muellenberg  
Dane County UW-EX Horticulture Program  
Coordinator

Hello!

Recently, I helped a friend move into a new house and had the opportunity to meet a beautiful, diverse flock of chickens in their back yard. The breeds, or landraces, I met included Barred Rock, Bantam, Rhode Island Red, and even a noble Brahma with feathered talons! Raising poultry has become very trendy recently and UW-Extension keeps up with the times! Check out these "eggcellent and free (range)" publications on raising chickens in the city or on the farm at The Learning Store: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/>.

The Brahma (at left)

Are you interested in growing a new crop? Supporting local food pantries? If so, then the Dane County Sweet Potato Project is for you! Through the Sweet Potato Project, growers are provided with sweet potato slips free of charge with the

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## Forms

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

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## 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.

### May 3

Teaching garden work day  
9:00 - 2:30  
5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### May 17

Teaching garden plant preparation  
9:00 - 2:30  
5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### May 18

Extension Plant Sale  
11:00 - 2:00  
5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### June 2

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

### June 7

Teaching garden work day  
9:00 - 2:30  
5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### June 19

Teaching garden work day  
4:00 - 7:30



understanding that half of their harvest will be donated to local food pantries in Madison and Dane County.

Please join a local CSA farmer and I for free trainings on how to successfully cultivate the delicious, nutritious sweet potato in our climate! For more information, please visit <http://madisonsweetpotatoproject.org>.

Sweet Potato Cultivation Trainings

- May 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Willy Street Coop West)
- May 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (UW Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison)



2013 Harvest at the Youth Grow Local Farm



Thank you!

Many thanks go to Renee Ostrowski, Dean Smith, Diane

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

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 12

Teaching garden work day

9:00 - 2:30

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

July 14

MAMGA/WHPS Evening Garden Tour

Windsor

July 21

MAMGA/WHPS Evening Garden Tour

Black Earth/Mazomanie

July 26

Teaching garden work day

9:00 - 2:30

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

August 1

Four Elements Herbal Farm Tour

8:00 a.m. departure

North Freedom, WI

August 9

Teaching garden work day

9:00 - 2:30

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

Amundson, Hayley Hart, Diane Tabak, Ritchie Rheume, Marilyn Sallee, Rosanne Horne, Libby Caes, Nancy Howe, Katie Kelsner, Joanne Brown, Barb Klasinski, Kathy Manthei, Monica Jaehnig, Jane Cramer, Jane Graham, Theresa Seeley, Cheri Schweitzer, Art DeSmet, Nina Harmes, Marie Udulutch, Theresa Pillar-Groesbeck, Jan Blakeslee, Mary Pelzer, Frankie Fuller, Percy Mather, Kris Gabert, Mary Young, Emily Embury, Betty Lou Knight, Sandy Aebly, Nancy Gustaf, B'Ann Gabelt, Pat Cartwright, Anne Lies, Libby Howting, Jane Gahlman, Lynn Berton, Luba Konowalskyj, Judy Janowski, Patsy Sebben, Joan Fitzgerald, Suzy Bowditch, Valerie Hoch, Jackie Winchester, Lisa Mlinar, Peg Schumann and Janie Starzewski.

We couldn't do it without you!



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## Green Thumb Tuesday

*~~a get together for MGVs~~*

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Monona Gardens Restaurant



Topic: Rabbit proof plants?!? What's your strategy to minimize rabbit damage in your garden??

Come enjoy an evening with Master Gardener Volunteers. An opportunity to get together, get caught up, visit, etc.

Informal gathering to eat, drink, and talk on the first Tuesday of the month! Look forward to seeing you there!

Need more information? Call Dana at 608-833-5703 or email Dana Warren at [djwarren5703@hotmail.com](mailto:djwarren5703@hotmail.com).

Reservations not required, but it helps to know if anyone is coming.

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Annual Tree Sale at Rotary  
Botanical Gardens

May 9, 10 & 11

### August 12

West Ag Research Station  
Tour

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Madison

### August 23

Teaching garden work day

9:00 - 2:30

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### September 6

Teaching garden work day

9:00 - 2:30

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### September 14

**MAMGA picnic**

Details in September  
newsletter

### September 20

Teaching garden work day

9:00 - 2:30

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### October 11

Teaching garden work day

9:00 - 2:30

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### October 25

Teaching garden work day

9:00 - 2:30

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### [More Wisconsin Events](#)

Also see "Events" column

## Contact Info



MAMGA

P.O. Box 259318

Madison, WI 53725

Phone: (608) 224-3721

In partnership with Janesville Blackhawk Golden "K" Kiwanis, Rotary Botanical Gardens (RBG) in Janesville, Wisconsin will hold a Tree Sale, May 9, 10 & 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at its Horticulture Center, located off Palmer Drive.

As part of the sale, there will be six kinds of trees offered. All are two to three year old transplants and are sold in minimum bundles of five. Trees are \$1.85 each, with 10% off purchases of more than 50 trees.

Trees included in the sale are Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens glauca*), Black Hills Spruce (*Picea glauca* 'Densata'), Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), Eastern Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and White Oak (*Quercus alba*).

Pre-orders are recommended for guaranteed availability; call 608.754.2152.

#### About Rotary Botanical Gardens

Rotary Botanical Gardens is an award winning 20-acre, non-profit botanic showcase with over 20 different garden styles and 4,000 varieties of plants. The Gardens is home to many dramatic and internationally themed gardens, including the Japanese, Scottish, French Formal, Italian and English Cottage Gardens. Less formally structured gardens include the rare, Fern and Moss Gardens as recognized by the Hardy Fern Foundation in the United States, as well as the Shade, Prairie and Woodland Gardens. Rotary Botanical Gardens also boasts an extensive collection of perennials; trees and shrubs and has become known for spectacular seasonal displays that blend annuals and perennials in exuberant beds and containers.

Visitors to the Gardens may enjoy guided garden tours, shopping local artisans' works in the Cottage Garden Gallery Gift Shop, and a variety of educational classes and programs available for adults, youth and families. The elegant facility is also available for special event rentals. Rotary Botanical Gardens is 100% self-funded (receiving no city, county, state or federal funding) and maintained by a small staff and large group of dedicated volunteers.

For more information call 608-752-3885 or visit the website at [rotarybotanicalgardens.org](http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org). Rotary Botanical Gardens is located at 1455 Palmer Drive in Janesville, WI.

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## Plant Sale Announcements

### Habitat For Humanity of Dane County

Habitat for Humanity of Dane County will have its first plant sale of the year Friday and Saturday, May 16-17 at the Habitat ReStore EAST, 208 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison.

Email: [mamgamail@yahoo.com](mailto:mamgamail@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.mamgawi.org](http://www.mamgawi.org)

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#### MISSION

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

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Catherine Murray - President

Cheri Schweitzer

Cathy Cryor Burgweger - Treas

Aleta Murray - WIMGA Rep

Steve Hoffland

Dana Warren - Interim Secretary

Percy Mather

Dennis Tande

Bonnie Mitchell

Ed Meachen - President Elect

Vacant, Alternate

Lisa Johnson (Ex-officio Advisor)

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#### COMMUNICATIONS

Joan Fitzgerald, E-News Editor

[mgvjoan@gmail.com](mailto:mgvjoan@gmail.com)

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

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#### MAILING ADDRESS

1 Fen Oak Court, Suite 138

Madison, WI 53718-8812

Phone: 608-224-3715

[dane.uwex.edu](http://dane.uwex.edu)

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#### CONTACTS

Lisa Johnson, Dane Co. UWEX

Horticulture Educator

[Johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com](mailto:Johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com)

Phone: 608-224-3715

FAX: 608-224-3727

Joe Muellenberg, Horticulture

Program Coordinator

Youth Educator

GROW Leader

[Muellenberg@countyofdane.com](mailto:Muellenberg@countyofdane.com)

Phone: 608-224-3709

FAX: 608-224-3727

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There is a wide variety of perennials including daylilies, hosta, iris, phlox, rudbeckia, and more. We still have many different varieties of hybrid daylilies donated by the Wisconsin Daylily Society. Various ground covers are also available. Plant prices are \$4 each or 3 for \$10, unless otherwise marked. All proceeds are used to help build homes for Habitat families in Dane County.

A second spring sale will be at the Habitat ReStore WEST, 5906 Odana Rd, Madison on Saturday, May 31 from 9:00 to 5:00. Similar plants will be available and the prices will be \$4 each or 3 for \$10, unless otherwise marked.

More sale dates will be available each month during the summer and fall. Watch for new postings.

Donations of hardy perennials and plastic planting pots are welcome. To donate, please contact Ann Wolfe at 442-8768 or e-mail [plantlady123@outlook.com](mailto:plantlady123@outlook.com).

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## 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](mailto:jeanette.tierney@gmail.com).

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## UW-Extension Plant Sale

Sunday, May 18

11:00 - 2:00

5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

Please join us for a plant sale extravaganza! Purchase select plants from the Extension Office Teaching Gardens and MGVs personal gardens. There will also be pebble pots, garden whimsys and more for sale. Event will take place RAIN (snow) or SHINE!

Contact Person and Contact Information (phone, email, address):

Dr. Susan E. Rice Mahr  
Master Gardener Program  
Coordinator  
Phone: (608) 265-4504  
(FAX: (608) 262-4743  
[semahr@wisc.edu](mailto:semahr@wisc.edu)

Mike Maddox  
MG Program Director  
Phone: 608-265-4536  
[mike.maddox@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:mike.maddox@ces.uwex.edu)

WI Master Gardener website:  
<http://wimastergardener.org>

MG Program Office Blog  
<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimastergardener/>

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## 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](#).

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Did you miss a past e-newsletter?

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.

Please join us for a plant sale extravaganza! Purchase select plants from the Extension Office Teaching Gardens and MGVs' personal gardens. There will also be pebble pots, garden follies and more for sale. Event will take place RAIN (snow) or SHINE!

For more information contact:

Lisa Johnson (608) 224-3715

[johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com](mailto:johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com)

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## Elvehjem Community Plant Sale

Saturday May 31

City Church

4909 E. Buckeye

Bring your plants to the back parking area and pick up new ones!

Refreshments served. Questions, comments, ideas: Call (608) 221-1528 or email [general@mail.citychurchonline.org](mailto:general@mail.citychurchonline.org).

Plants include perennials (non-invasive), annuals, houseplants, and vegetable plants.

Welcoming all types of healthy, moist plant material in plastic bags or pots, marked with plant identification information please.

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## Garden Tours

Tour of Agrace Gardens

5395 E. Cheryl Parkway, Madison

Monday, June 2

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Agrace is surrounded by 14 acres of property, including unrestored woodlands, oak savannas and partially developed prairies, rain gardens and kitchen gardens. Developed formal gardens include: annual beds and containers, butterfly gardens, a dry river bed, a pond & brick walk garden, courtyards, a screen Garden and 50 individual patient patio gardens. In accordance with our mission of "partnering with patients and families to improve quality of life throughout serious illness," the Agrace Gardens serve to uplift the spirits, heal the hearts and inspire the souls of all who visit.

Master gardener volunteers will get a chance to meet Julie Mellenthin, Agrace Horticulturist, tour the gardens, walk through the inside of the facility and also see the flower rooms. We will end with light refreshments and conclude at 8:00 p.m.

Contact Person: Valerie Hoch, 608.831.1242,

[WiValerie@aol.com](mailto:WiValerie@aol.com)

Website: [www.agrace.org](http://www.agrace.org)

Registration required! Due to the nature of care at Agrace, the tour will be limited to 40 participants.

Registration deadline: Friday, May 30



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## Events of Interest in 2014

Mark your 2014 calendars for the following out-of-Madison events:

All About Herbs Lecture Series - 2014

Sponsored by the Herb Society of America – Wisconsin Unit AND Ozaukee Master Gardeners

Dates: 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.



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Volunteer Opportunities



## Extension Plant Sale

Preparation: Saturday, May 17, 9:00 - 2:30

Sale Day: Sunday, May 18, 11:00 - 2:00

Extension building, 5201 Oak Fen Ct., Madison

Plant sale coordinator Hayley Hart, is looking for volunteers to help with the plant sale. On Saturday, May 17, MGVs are invited to help with preparation for the sale by digging, potting and marking plants. Also, if you would like to host a plant dig in your yard or donate plants please contact:

Hayley Hart (608) 249-8752 [packfan7378@sbcglobal.net](mailto:packfan7378@sbcglobal.net) or

Lisa Johnson (608) 224-3715

[johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com](mailto:johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com)

[Help us make this the best Extension plant sale ever!](#)

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### Kennedy Heights Community Center

We need a Community Garden Supervisor at Kennedy Heights Community Center, 199 Kennedy Road, Madison, WI 53704 (near the intersection of Northport Drive and Kennedy Road).

We are trying to start a community garden for the Kennedy Heights neighborhood. The garden would be maintained by students in the after school, Girls Inc, Boys Group, and summer programs. The students range in age from 9-15. There is also the chance that younger students will help out. The goal of the garden is to foster outdoor and agricultural learning, to promote healthy eating habits, and to provide a way for families to come together at the community center.

The Community Garden Supervisor would provide expert advice at all stages of creating the community garden. They could choose to work directly with the students or to simply advise about how and when you want to volunteer, as nobody at the center has much experience creating sustainable community gardens, we really need the help.

Contact Person: Lisa Charron, 608-244-0767,  
[lisamcharron@gmail.com](mailto:lisamcharron@gmail.com), [www.khcommunitycenter.org](http://www.khcommunitycenter.org)

Additional Comments/Notes: Along with several other northeast side community organizations, we recently received funding through the Goodman Foundation to create and promote gardening, fitness, and healthy eating curricula for the children and families in our community. Volunteering with us will help develop that curricula, not only for Kennedy Heights but for the whole northeast side. This a great opportunity to help create real, sustainable change in northeast side communities. Join us and become part of the project!

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## Middleton Community Garden

City of Middleton Community Garden  
7426 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI

Needs: Gardeners, Coordinators, Stewards

April - October 2014

Job Description: The City of Middleton Community Garden is a shared, collaborative gardening and growing space in the downtown Middleton area. The garden landscape is comprised of annual vegetable crops, herbs, fruit trees and shrubs and perennial edible plants. We are welcome to help in various forms, from general gardening activities (planting, watering, weeding) to garden logistics (maintaining garden records and determining tasks) and assisting with monthly garden workshops or events.

Contact Person: Amy Jo Dusick (608) 658-7742,  
[cityhallgarden@gmail.com](mailto:cityhallgarden@gmail.com) OR [ajodusick@gmail.com](mailto:ajodusick@gmail.com).

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## Midvale Heights Community Association

This message comes from Jim Thoreson.

[jim.thoreson@lawsonproducts.com](mailto:jim.thoreson@lawsonproducts.com)

I am a member of the board for the Midvale Heights Community Association in Madison. We are in need of some help with our Bison Prairie area which is right off the bike path by Midvale Blvd and also our Tokay Blvd median which was damaged heavily by 2013 street re-construction and a hard winter. Hoping for some help with ideas and maintenance of these two areas. My phone # is 608-513-3737.

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## Paid Gardening Positions

1. Seasonal gardening position available now at Parkview Apartments, 725 W. Washington Avenue. Design, plant purchasing, mulching, dead heading & maintaining several gardens at this apartment complex. Approx. 7-10 hours per week. Employer is CHT Apartment Rentals (Marlene Korb).

In addition, Marlene would like to hire this same gardener (or another) to maintain her personal home garden (Maple Bluff

area). Number of hours to be discussed with Marlene.  
Position also available now.

Those interested for either position, please contact: Angie Stewart (current gardener) at [aburnett10@gmail.com](mailto:aburnett10@gmail.com) for more information or call 608.332.7871.

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2. Beth McKy, who owns a flower shop called "Always in Bloom" in DeForest, is looking for an employee/assistant. She would love to have someone with an understanding of plants and flowers and who would like to share hours at the shop.

Contact Beth at 608-846-3515 by phone or e-mails at [bethmcky@aol.com](mailto:bethmcky@aol.com) or [alwaysinbloom13@gmail.com](mailto:alwaysinbloom13@gmail.com).

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3. Eldery woman needs gardener: Peggy Williams, 200 Morningside Drive, Madison, has some flower beds in the front, but most are in the back of the house. Her son mows her lawn, so it's just the flowerbeds that will need some attention. She's 95 and a little hard of hearing, but very sharp and likes her yard to look clean and nice. She's a member of Olbrich Gardens, so has an especial love of plants and flowers. I'm sure she'd be willing to pay whatever the gardener thinks is fair.

Probably initially, it would be best to go through me. My number is either 608-712-3457 (cell) or 224-3732 (work, during the day).

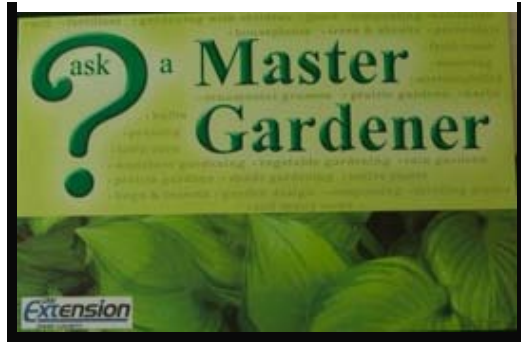
Thanks for this. It would be a great blessing to her to find an individual who loves flowers as much as she does.

Deb Flanders  
Dane County Land & Water Resources Department  
5201 Fen Oak Drive, Room 208  
Madison, WI 53718  
(608)224-3730  
[flanders@countyofdane.com](mailto:flanders@countyofdane.com)

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Ask a Master Gardener (AAMG)



## Schedule for 2014

Lodi FM at 902 Main St., Fridays 2-5, May, 2, 16; June 6, 20; July 4, 18; August 1, 15; September 5, 19; October 3, 17

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 8-11, 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

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

See you at the markets!

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## Teaching Garden Work Days



MGV students need 6 hours in the Teaching Garden to certify.

\*\*If you need to complete your Teaching Garden hours at other dates or times, talk to Lisa or Joe when you can schedule this.\*\*

Workdays generally run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; some are in the evening on weekdays and are noted below. You can come in and leave when you need to. There is a sign-in sheet so you can record how many hours you stayed. Tasks include seeding at the office (usually during weekdays--possibly some evenings), planting, weeding, fertilizing, watering, pruning, labeling, painting and installing signs, indoor plant care, spreading mulch, helping with the children's programs, helping put together the virtual garden tour and the qr-code info and labels.

May 3, 17 (plant sale prep.), 18 (9:30-3:00, plant sale)  
June 7, 19 (4:00-7:30 p.m.), 21 (MAMGA Luncheon)  
July 12, 26,  
August 9, 23  
September 6, 14 (11-2, MAMGA picnic), 20  
October 11, 25

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

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## Continuing Education Opportunities

Check here again next month for continuing education opportunities.

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## Garden Reflections

by Joan Fitzgerald, MGV, PHA



Happy May! I love May because of the greenery its warmer weather brings with it. Spring flowers are peeking through the soil and bringing smiles to our faces. Winter is over!

May brings May Day, which I remember celebrating when I was a kid by collecting wild growing flowers, usually dandelions and violets, to present to my mother on this day.

May Day was brought to the American colonies and celebrated by some early European settlers of the American continent.

In some parts of the United States, May Baskets are made. These are small baskets usually filled with flowers or treats and left at someone's doorstep. The giver rings the bell and runs away. The person receiving the basket tries to catch the fleeing giver; if caught, a kiss is exchanged.

While not celebrated among the general public in the United States today, a Maypole Dance nearly identical to that celebrated in the United Kingdom is an important part of May Day celebrations in local schools and communities. Often the Maypole dance will be accompanied by other dances as part of a presentation to the public.

For most of us May Day is just another day. Get out and enjoy the beauty of May! And, it might be nice to surprise a neighbor or friend with a May Basket or put up a May Pole in your backyard and invite the neighbors over for a dance around it.

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Plant of the Month

-- Paeonia --

The genus *Paeonia* with the common name of Peony are clump-forming perennials and deciduous shrubs or subshrubs grown for large, vibrant and fragrant flowers. The blooms are usually upright and may have several flowers to a stem. Flowers are saucer-, cup-, or bowl-shaped which vary widely in color and size from 2 to 12 inches across. The blooms can be single, semi-double and double. They sometimes have showy, red- or black-seeded pod-like fruits. Peonies can be used in a mixed, herbaceous, or shrub border. Herbaceous cultivars bloom in late spring and early summer. Tree peonies bloom in mid-spring and late spring. Peonies have a wide distribution in meadows, and rocky places of Eastern Asia to Europe, and in western North America. All parts of peonies are poisonous.



Peonies prefer deep, fertile, humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil in either full sun or part shade. The larger cultivars may require support to look tidy.

Peonies can be propagated by division, cuttings or grafting: Herbaceous cultivars can be divided in early autumn and replant by placing the new growth

2 inches below the surface or take root cuttings in winter. Tree peonies can be propagated by taking semi-ripe cuttings in summer or grafting in winter.

Common problems with Peonies include ringspot virus, verticillium wilt, Botrytis blight, tip blight, leaf blotch, stem rot, Japanese beetles, and nematodes.

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## Gardening Tip



### Easy Plant Tag Memory Trick

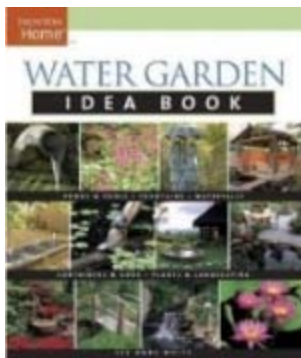
It's almost time to go to garden centers around here so here's my shopping tip to you for this spring.

Take one smart phone. Add Evernote (a free memory app). Take pictures in Evernote - wait for it - of all plant tags you buy. Make notes about them afterwards at home.

You now have a record of your plant purchases and you'll remember just exactly what that plant really was.



## From the Bookshelf



### Water Garden Idea Book

Taunton Home Idea Books

Author: Lee Anne White

Water gardening is making a big splash in today's landscapes. Called the fastest-growing part of the landscape industry today, the installation of water features in the

landscape is a multi-billion dollar market. It's easy to see why. Splashing fountains make hot days seem a bit cooler. Basins of water reflect the blue sky, puffy clouds, and colorful fall leaves. Naturalistic ponds and waterfalls attract birds and butterflies to backyards. And tiny tabletop fountains offer soothing sounds that drown out neighborhood noise.

Water Garden Idea Book brings these ideas to life, providing more than 300 photos of all types of water features--with tips for design and placement so that they become striking focal points or soothing and subtle additions for any setting. From ponds and streams to pools and water stairs, fountains, containers, and bubbling urns, Water Garden Idea Book has it all. Special emphasis is given to siting all types of water features and how to install a water feature yourself. Extensive resource list is included.

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## Snippets . . .

### DO BUTTERFLY HOUSES ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES?

Short answer -- no. However they do provide homes and hiding places for spiders and wasps, which are very beneficial to those insects.



Although there are a number of butterfly species that survive the winter months as adults, even in cold northern climates, they prefer to hibernate in the old-fashioned places: under bark, in vegetation, or in a brush pile. To a butterfly, these natural areas are more inviting and protective than an artificial structure placed out in the open.

Although not helpful to butterflies, the butterfly house provides great hiding places and nest locations for spiders and wasps, two very beneficial garden allies. Planting a diversity of colorful native flowers and larval host plants, as well as leaving shrubby areas or brush piles, also helps. By doing so, your garden can provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, and other desirable wild creatures and remain an attractive destination year-round. In the meantime just sit back, enjoy nature, and consider that butterfly house as only an attractive garden ornament.

Source: [Fine Gardening](#) online, April 21, 2014. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

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CARBON FOOTPRINT: Consider using a push mower to cut your grass rather than a gas-powered one. According to the EPA, the average gas-powered lawnmower gives off as much smog-forming air pollution in an hour as the average car does in 200 miles of driving! And each gallon of gas burned releases 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to contribute to global warming. Today's new push mower designs make the task much easier than in the past. Plus mowing is a lot more enjoyable when it's quiet enough to hear the birds singing in the garden.

Source: [Gardener to Gardener](#), April 26, 2014

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RANDOM FUN FACT: Wolffia (a type of duckweed) has the world's smallest flowers. A bouquet of a dozen blooms would comfortably fit on the head of a pin.

Source: [Village Garden Express online](#), April 25, 2014

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## Master Gardener Volunteer Profile

-- Janie Starzewski --

by Lisa Mlinar, MGV

Janie Starzewski is the kind of person who is not afraid to follow the road wherever it may lead. She has already traveled quite a few, of which one led to her becoming a Master Gardener in 2013.



Janie grew up on a dairy farm in Whitewater. There were about 55 head milked in a herd of 150 cows. However, Janie never had the chance to try milking. Her father was very protective of "his girls" (in this case the cows, mind you, not his daughters)!

Naturally there was a vegetable garden, but Janie mostly recalls how she hated lettuce and tomatoes. As a member of 4-H, she showed cattle, raised goats, learned crocheting and other crafts, exhibited photographs, and participated in nearly every activity except gardening. She could not but help become interested in weather, as it is such an integral part of daily life and operations on the farm.

She graduated from UW Madison in 2003 with a degree in meteorology and began working for Weather Central. The job involved preparing forecasts as well as producing weather pages with maps and graphics for newspapers all across the

country. She also worked on web pages and weather apps and even designed and implemented a weather widget. This sparked an interest in learning more about web design and programming, so she embarked on a new career. Janie earned an Associate Degree from MATC and worked as a web developer for nearly four years, as well as starting her own web design business. It was during this time that she and her husband bought their house and Janie started to garden.

Then Janie decided to take time to (literally) smell the roses. In early 2012, she began working full-time at K&A Greenhouse in Fitchburg while continuing to run her business. It was only natural that this would lead her down the road to becoming a Master Gardener. (She completed Level I training in August of 2013, and is currently taking Level II courses.) It also made the bond even closer between her and her mother-in-law, a Master Gardener who Janie greatly admires for the humungous gardens she maintains all by herself. They even swap seeds.

As a manager at K&A, Janie is quite proficient at multitasking. There are seven greenhouses at the Fitchburg location where the nursery stock is grown. Janie will occasionally assist the owner in selecting the plants to sell in the upcoming season. Plants are selected based on zone, as well as on the reviews and testing results.

Proven Winners are a big source, but old and new varieties come from at least four different suppliers. The plugs arrive in March to begin growing in April. At that time, the main task is watering, which is also one of the hardest parts of the job. The greenhouses at this location are old, so all the watering must be done by hand with hoses. During the early spring, this takes two people four hours a day each. They have to know their plants so they do not overwater. The plants are fertilized about once a week, each with a type specific to its needs that is mixed into the water. Once the greenhouse is open to the public and in full swing, there will be staff that does nothing but water all day.

While she will help water, Janie also cleans, works the register, assists the customers in choosing their plants, and puts together the displays; including designing and planting the containers and hanging baskets. She also posts a three-day weather forecast with tips for customers who are buying plants. Check out [www.provenwinners.com](http://www.provenwinners.com). It offers a variety of great ideas for landscaping and gardening, and even recipes (the number and type of plants or flowers) for putting together your own planters and baskets.

The greenhouses only have natural lighting for growing, but to keep the temperature between 68 and 74 degrees requires fans and sometimes heaters. She used her computer skills to set up monitoring, including automatic notification when temperatures dip too low. This averted a costly disaster one

night. It fell below freezing outside and a heater failed. An alert was sent to the greenhouse manager and the plants were saved.

When the mums start to come in, that is the cue to start selling off the plants. Some perennials are overwintered, and some find their way home with Janie. One of the benefits of working there is that she can try as many plants as she likes, and her yard shows that she likes plenty. Although the neighborhood association frowns upon gardens, Janie's are not just well kept but quite beautiful, and they draw compliments rather than complaints.

She has added several gardens in the eight years in her house, from rock to perennial to vegetable. The perennial shade garden is filled with astilbe, coral bells, ferns, and a hydrangea shrub that no one wanted. A sunnier garden holds brightly colored coneflowers, daisies, and other perennials, as well as a separate herb garden within the garden. Her diet has turned mostly vegetarian and she grows plenty of different things, including peppers, eggplant, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, spinach, lettuce, and tomatoes. That's right. She found the road to redemption and now enjoys lettuce and tomatoes! She grows sweet potatoes for the Sweet Potato Project, and will try her hand at sweet corn and melons this year. What isn't eaten fresh is frozen, but she also does some hot water bath canning. For Janie, one of the best parts of the MG program was working at the school garden. She is very interested in urban agriculture, sustainable ecosystems, and especially teaching people to grow their own food.

Although her husband is not much into gardening, he enjoys spending time with her and helps with the things she doesn't want to do. They constructed raised beds, installed a plastic snow fence to keep the deer out, and used PVC pipe to make hoops so that the beds can be easily covered during cool weather.

She also loves vermicomposting, with two worm bins at home that eat all of the food scraps. She highly recommends the book "Worms Eat My Garbage" to anyone who is interested in starting his or her own worm bin. The book link is <http://www.amazon.com/Worms-Eat-My-Garbage-Composting/dp/0977804518>.

When the greenhouse shuts down during the winter months, she takes the opportunity to devote even more time to her own business. Much of her website work is for non-profit organizations. The varied clients and causes help quench her unending thirst to learn new and different things, but she also discovers new ways to volunteer. When it comes to MAMGA, she fulfills her hours by working in the food pantry garden. K&A also grows and contributes vegetables. Additionally, she helps with the design and web aspects of the monthly newsletter.

What other roads has she followed? She took up running to relieve stress, and in 2011 she finished the Boston Marathon. She is eagerly awaiting her first box of bees in hopes of establishing a hive in her backyard. And, she is looking forward to raising something else a little later this year for the very first time: She is expecting twins in fall. Whatever roads lie before her, Janie is not afraid of the challenge and will take them; wherever they might go.

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

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## 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.

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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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