

OCTOBER 2014



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

"Just before the death of flowers,  
And before they are buried in snow,  
There comes a festival season  
When nature is all aglow."

- Author Unknown

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### 2013-14 MGV Hours Reporting

Reporting hours is critical to the Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) program. Please report your hours under the three categories used to report activities to the state.

Recertifying MGVs must report no less than 24 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education annually on October 1.

Submit completed forms to the address listed on the form.

The deadline for MGV hours reporting is October 1, 2014. Note: Late forms will be accepted so turn them in as soon as possible after October 1, 2014.

*Thank you for supporting MAMGA and the Dane Co. UW-EXT program!*

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## The Extension Express



From Lisa Johnson  
Dane County UW-Extension Horticulture Educator

### Teaching Garden

The Teaching Garden is looking really good. Mulching is mostly done, and by the time this newsletter comes out, perennials will have been divided for next year's plant sale. We've had a couple Sandhill cranes in the field next door come over to visit on a semi-regular basis. I found them poking around in the color wheel garden one night after work. I drove slowly to avoid scaring them, but they really weren't worried about me, though the male gave me the once-over with his beady red eyes. In October we will need help digging a trench for hoses on the north side to help facilitate getting water to the circle garden (i.e. less dragging!). We are also going to get fencing up in October due to some early woody plant predation experiences the last couple years. We'd also like to get our mason bee house and a garden sign up yet this fall. There are workdays on October 11th and 25th if you can join us.

### Programming Potpourri



Our EAB ash injection demonstration program went well on September 11, in spite of it being the coldest day since May. The trees were a little slow in taking up the various products, due to the cold weather, cloudiness and time of year affecting uptake, but it was a great comparison of the three products. Many thanks are due to Briana Frank, new MGV student, certified arborist and co-owner of Tree Health Management, who set up the demo with Rainbow Tree Care, Bio-Forest Technologies and Arborjet. We had about 20 attendees; some were MGVs, others were tree care company representatives. Here are some photos of the three systems and products in action:



## 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.

#### October 7

Green Thumb Tuesday  
5:00 - 8:00  
Topic: Bulbs  
Monona Gardens Restaurant



MGV Diane Amundson and I spent some time at the Taste of Elvehjem Neighborhood Festival at the Elvehjem Community Garden on Sunday, September 14. Diane put in a tremendous amount of energy getting the children's garden in shape (see photo) and making steppingstones out of cement for children to paint. I had a table at the event with info on the emerald ash borer and other horticultural topics and answered questions. Here is a photo of Diane dressed as an emerald ash borer (costume by MGV Marilyn Sallee) along with the mayor, the Festival's special guest, who read a story to the children and judged the food entries in a contest. Our office's blender bike also put in an appearance and kids made fruit smoothies.



I held the annual training for Plant Health Advisors in early September. We had 17 new trainees! Some of them are already volunteering at Farmers Markets such as Nina Harmes and Marie Udulutch. Others will now be joining them there and at the Horticulture Helpline. New trainees are: Jill Andersen, Carole Blemker, Dan Caucutt, Connie Crenshaw, Phyllis Davis, Art DeSmet, Rachael Dreschel, Dawn Engbring, Nina Harmes, Katie Kelsner, Rachel Martin, Kathy Nieber-Lathrop, Linda Norton, Mary Pinkerton, Patsy Sebben, Marie Udulutch, and Corinna Wells. Thanks for volunteering in this important area! I also had some seasoned PHAs helping with the small group portion of the training: Gail Piper, Mary Pelzer and Mary Young. Thanks much to you as well!

I want to put in a plug for the 2014 MGV graduation and recognition event. It will be held here at the office on November 13 starting at 6pm. This is a great way to meet the new MGVs, and renew old friendships with MGVs you already know. We will be recognizing and celebrating the stellar work you all do and the work of some people in particular who have gone way above and beyond in their service. There will be a slide show featuring many of you working in your chosen volunteer venues. I encourage you to join us! Please RSVP with Marilyn Sallee at [wimgvmarilyn@gmail.com](mailto:wimgvmarilyn@gmail.com).

### Hort Short

Many people had questions in August and September about the golden orange beetles crawling on their flowering plants, so I've condensed Susan Mahr's excellent 2009 article on goldenrod soldier beetles for your

6501 Bridge Road

### October 11

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

### October 21

West Madison Ag Field Day  
3:00 - 5:00  
8502 Mineral Pt. Rd.

### October 25

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

### November 8

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

### November 13

MGV Graduation & Recognition  
6:00 - 9:00  
5201 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### November 22

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

2015

July 31 - August 1  
WIMGA Annual Conference  
LaCrosse

2016

September 17-18  
Midwest Regional MG  
Conference  
Wisconsin Dells

### [More Wisconsin Events](#)

Also see "Events" column

enjoyment. For the complete article, visit <http://wimastergardener.org/?q=GoldenrodSoldierBeetle>. These 5/8-inch long, orange beetles, with two prominent brown-black spots on the elytra, often are seen on goldenrod flowers – hence the common name – but they will also visit many other flowers in late summer. Adults may be seen from July to September, but are most abundant in August. They are found in meadows, fields and in gardens, feeding primarily on pollen and nectar, but also small insects such as caterpillars, insect eggs and aphids. Flowers are also a meeting place for finding mates. Goldenrod soldier beetles don't damage plants and don't bite or sting. Adult females lay their eggs in clusters in the soil. The dark-colored, long, slender, worm-like larvae are covered with tiny dense bristles, giving them a velvety appearance. They mature in the soil, where they are insect predators.



Thank you!

Thanks to: Rosanne Horne, Marilyn Sallee, Nina Harmes, Marie Udulutch, Jan Blakeslee, Theresa Pillar-Groesbeck, Libby Howting, Anne Lies, Sandy Aebly, Betty Lou Knight, Emily Embury, Nancy Gustaf, Mary Young, Dennis Tande, Jane Nicholson, Joan Fitzgerald, Edie Grossen, Kris Gabert, B'Ann Gabelt, Roger Hanson, Ritchie Rheaume, Pat Cartwright, Sharon Schwarz, Kathy Curtner, Frankie Fuller, Cricket Gage, Reggie Moody, Dean Smith, Jim Goodno, Diane Amundson, Jill Andersen, Steve Skinner, Mary Pinkerton, Shari Kuemmel, Cheryl Durst, Kristen Durst, Cathy Spann, Alyssa Neuser, Peggy Mravik, Rita Byk, Karen Meulendyke, Marge Hanson, Mary Pelzer, Gail Piper, Cheryl Deering, Randy Deering, Pat Tillman, Barb Buelow, Ed Meachen, Peg Schumann, Mary Collet, Dennis Tande, Jackie Winchester.

We couldn't do it without you!

## Contact Info



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### MISSION

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

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### COMMUNICATIONS

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



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## Green Thumb Tuesday

-- a get-together for MGVs --

Join us on October 7, 2014  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Monona Gardens Restaurant  
6501 Bridge Road, Madison

Topic: ***Bulbs: flowers to feed our souls***



Let's talk about the who, what, when, where and how of acquiring, planting and enjoying the bulbs that bloom in our gardens.

If you have too many, new or used, and would like to share - bag 'em and bring them along.

RSVP not required but is good to have for space planning

Contact Dana Warren at 608-833-5703 or  
[djwarren5703@hotmail.com](mailto:djwarren5703@hotmail.com) to RSVP

Food and beverage from Monona Gardens menu; separate checks provided.

Green Thumb Tuesday is the time and place to relax, enjoy food and/or beverage and talk about gardening.

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## Field Days at West Madison Agricultural Research Station

Focused on Vegetable Flavor

This year at West Madison, we have planted trials of several species of vegetables with a particular focus on flavor, with varieties selected by plant breeders at UW Madison and by seed companies with organic seed offerings for direct-market growers. We have beets, carrots, onion, lettuce, hot and

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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.

sweet peppers, melons, winter squash, cabbage, tomato, potato and sweet corn in collaboration with plant breeders at UW Madison and the West Madison demonstration gardens.



Field Day October 21st from 3-5 pm: we will tour the trials still in the field and the demonstration garden and do a taste test of potatoes, carrots, winter squash and onion varieties as part of this research project. The data collected will be analyzed and shared with the public through the websites listed below, publications and presentations.

Held at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station 8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona WI, [universitydisplaygardens.com](http://universitydisplaygardens.com)

For more information and to receive information on project results, contact Julie Dawson, Department of Horticulture, [dawson@hort.wisc.edu](mailto:dawson@hort.wisc.edu). Web: [dawson.horticulture.wisc.edu](http://dawson.horticulture.wisc.edu)

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.

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## MGV Graduation and Recognition Awards

from Marilyn Salle, MGV,  
Graduation Chairperson



November 13, 2014 6 p.m. at Dane Co. Extension Office

You are Invited!

Newly trained MGVs receive their certificate.

PLUS

Awards Recognition for those already in the program who have contributed so much.

Social mixer so the long-time members can meet the new volunteers and learn from each other.

All MAMGA members, MGVs and graduates welcome.

NOTE: the Awards selections are based on hours reports turned in each year and suggestions from the Agent, Lisa, and various leadership chairs.

Please report your hours by the deadline of Oct. 1, 2014 to be considered for this special recognition.

**Agenda for the evening:**

6 p.m. Doors open

Social Bingo mixer activity to allow the new graduates, MGVs and MAMGA members time to mix and learn a little bit about each other.

Door prizes drawn from the Social Bingo participants.

Slideshow of MGVs in action -- Beverages and light snacks. (Coffee, tea, cake, finger food.)

7-9 p.m. Program

Graduation certificates handed out and graduate special awards

Speaker: The Importance of Volunteer Work

MGV Special Awards - special recognition for current MGVs who have given their best

Door prizes -- Graduation & Awards group photo -- All participants receive a plant to take home.



## Adopt-A-Median Program

The City's Adopt-A-Median program is an opportunity for volunteers to flex their green thumb to beautify neighborhoods while promoting the environment. Volunteers care for their adopted medians by weeding and planting and can qualify for up to full reimbursement of approved plantings.

This opportunity is open to individuals, informal groups, organizations and businesses. Medians located across the City of Madison in residential neighborhoods are ideal candidates for adoption. Caring for rain gardens on public lands is also included in this program. Adopters qualify for free mulch for their median(s) and reimbursement of up to the full cost of approved plants. Installation of new planting

beds in medians, with a cost sharing component, may be considered under the Adopt-A-Median program.

Volunteers are particularly being sought for medians located on Barton Rd., Dempsey Rd., Hammersley Rd., Marquette St., and Prairie Rd.

Program information is available on the City's web page, <http://www.cityofmadison.com/transportation/roadworks/adoptamedian/>. Please contact Johanna Johnson in the City Engineering Division, (608) 264-9274, or email [jjohnson@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jjohnson@cityofmadison.com).

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## Zoo Gardens

Staff at the Henry Vilas Zoo has been gradually adding volunteer gardeners to its volunteer corps over the past couple years – two of their gardeners came through the MGV program to work on beds down by the lion and seal exhibits and are still going strong. What an amazing impact it makes to have that sort of TLC.

Staff is looking to add some additional volunteers who are willing to 'adopt' a garden at the Zoo to start getting familiar with/cleaning up this fall and then maintain through the next season and hopefully beyond.

If this sounds like something you'd like to investigate/do, please contact Lynn Palewski by emailing her at [lynn@vilaszoo.org](mailto:lynn@vilaszoo.org).

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## Get involved in MAMGA and earn volunteer hours!

Email [Info@mamgawi.org](mailto:Info@mamgawi.org) if you are interested in participating in any of these opportunities

MAMGA Fundraising Committee  
MAMGA Communications Committee  
MAMGA Community Services Committee  
MAMGA Membership Committee  
MAMGA Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Volunteering is self-fulfilling, an opportunity to make new friends and learn new things!!  
Make 2015 your year to get involved!

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## Garden Reflections

by Joan Fitzgerald, MGV, PHA



Autumnal equinox, falling leaves, early darkness, pumpkins, the harvest, Halloween -- just a few things we think of this time of the year. It also seems at this time of the year folks are asking themselves and others, "Where has the year gone?"

My fall flowers have fared well this year with our timely rain showers and cooler temperatures. I have an abundance of asters in shades of purple, lavender and white in bloom right now. I know I didn't plant all the asters I see so I guess I have to thank the wind or the birds for planting them for me and providing the beautiful show. I also have several mums in pots and in the ground that came back to life in the spring. I've been buying mums from the Amish greenhouses in Marquette Co. and they have proved to be quite sturdy.

I haven't made my annual trek to the pumpkin patch yet but will do that in a week or so. I love decorating my yard in the fall.

After the first frost I always face the dilemma of cutting down my perennials or leaving them until spring. I usually end up doing some of both depending on how long the weather stays nice.

Before I close, I want to send a special "Thank You" to Peg Schumann who has been the e-newsletter proofreader for a couple of years. Her work was always timely and comprehensive. As Peg leaves the position, I am pleased to announce that Dennis Tande, a new member of the MAMGA Board, has volunteered to take on the proofreading task. He proofread this edition and I can tell you that he has a very good eye for the job! Thanks Dennis for stepping in.

I hope each of you has the opportunity to enjoy the blessings of the fall season by visiting a pumpkin farm, farmer's market stand, apple orchard or corn maze to herald the fall season.

Happy Fall!

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## Plant of the Month

-- Rex Begonia --

By Jackie Winchester, MGV

Rex begonias (*Begonia Rex-cultorum* group) are fabulous foliage plants that offer an enormous range of colors, shapes, patterns and textures. The leaves may be bumpy or smooth, streaked with colors such as white, pink, yellow, or purple, and come in many shapes and



sizes. The flowers are insignificant but leaves are the real highlight. Rex begonias can provide interest for months in any shade garden, especially when grown in containers. Rex begonias prefer shaded, humid conditions and rich, aerated soil similar to that found on the forest floor. Container

plants can be overwintered providing colorful variegated foliage indoors. Variegated plants generally need more light than plants with solid green leaves.

Significant breeding of Rex begonias has developed many selections with a wide range of colors and fascinating veining and puckering in the leaves. The leaf sizes vary and grow up to 9 inches long and 5 inches wide. The mounding habit of the plants can reach 12 to 18 inches tall and wide. They have perfect proportions to create gorgeous and dramatic planting combinations with many shade loving perennials and annuals.

Rex begonias need bright, but indirect light. Morning or late afternoon filtered sunlight is ideal. Direct, hot sunlight will bleach out their brilliant colors. Rex begonias need temperatures higher than 60 degrees and thrive at temperatures around 70 degrees during the day. Rex begonias are relatively slow growers, but benefit from using a balanced fertilizer during the growing season to maximize color development in the foliage. However, highly concentrated fertilizer will burn the foliage.

Rex begonias need high humidity, generally in excess of 50% relative humidity. Crispy brown edges on the leaves are a sign that the humidity is too low. While they thrive in high humidity, begonias will not tolerate wet feet. Waterlogged soil and prolonged wet leaves and stems can lead to rot or mildew and botrytis, both fungal diseases related to excessive moisture. Two ways to counteract overwatering is to make sure there is good air circulation around your plants, and use a potting mix with excellent drainage. The top of a Rex begonia's soil

should just begin to dry out before watering.

Rex begonias can be propagated from leaf cuttings or seeds. It takes about six months to produce a plant from a leaf cutting. The seeds are difficult to germinate and also take about six month to produce a plant.

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## Gardening Tip



Allow disease and insect-free perennials to stand for the winter. It will increase their winter hardiness, and the dried leaves, stems and seed heads provide winter interest for you to enjoy. It will also be a benefit to the birds for a winter food source as well as overwintering homes for

butterflies and beneficial insects.

*Source: Ebert's Greenhouse Village E-Newsletter, Ixonia, WI*

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## From the Bookshelf

[How to Grow Anything: Your Best Garden and Landscape in 6 Lessons](#)

Author: Melinda Myers

Gardening is one of life's great pleasures. It offers bountiful wonders—flowers, grasses, fruits, vegetables, trees—that bring you closer to the natural world. It allows you to design private and public displays of infinite variety and for numerous purposes. And the best part: Learning how to grow the garden of your dreams is a skill that anyone can learn with relative ease. Believe it or not, you can create gardens and landscapes in almost any setting, from large rural backyards to tight urban spaces, and in almost any climate. All it takes is a little care, a little patience, and, above all, the knowledge and techniques that professional gardeners and horticulturalists use to cultivate garden spaces that are both beautiful and successful. In just six engaging and accessible lessons, [How to Grow Anything: Your Best Garden and Landscape in 6 Lessons](#) offers you the unique chance to learn alongside a master gardening educator with more than 30 years of experience as she reveals the essential skills of gardening. Melinda

Myers, an award-winning horticulturist and certified arborist, and a nationally syndicated garden host-guides you step-by-step through the fundamentals, from design to preparation to planting, that any novice gardener needs to know in order to plant and maintain a thriving garden that looks as great as those seen on television and in books and magazines. And even if you're someone who has been gardening for years, you'll find new ideas and tips as the instructor takes you to two test sites across the year-from spring to winter-transforming grassy areas, overgrown beds, and lackluster designs into spectacular gardens.

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## Snippets . . .

**DEADHEADING:** Deadheading is the practice of removing dead blooms from plants. The act of deadheading annuals and perennials lasts throughout the growing season. Deadheading refreshes a plant's appearance, controls seed dispersal, and redirects a plant's energy from seed production to root and vegetative growth. It also prolongs the bloom period or encourages a second flush of blooms on some perennials. Deadheading also keeps the plants tidy looking.

To learn more about deadheading, click this [link](#).

*Source: Fine Gardening E-Newsletter, Issue 92*

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**IT'S GARLIC PLANTING TIME!** Soil preparation: Garlic will tolerate some shade but prefers full sun. While I've seen cloves sprout in gravel pits, garlic responds best in well-drained, rich, loamy soil amended with lots of organic matter. Raised beds are ideal, except in very dry regions.

**Planting:** To grow garlic, you plant the cloves, the sections of the bulb; each clove will produce a new bulb. The largest

cloves generally yield the biggest bulbs. To get the cloves off to a strong start and protect them from fungal diseases, soak them in a jar of water containing one heaping tablespoon of baking soda and a tablespoon of liquid seaweed for a few hours before planting. Plant garlic in the fall. To read the complete article, click [here](#).



Source: *Organicgardening.com. Volume 61, No. 6*

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2015 Pantone Spring Colors: According to Pantone's Executive Director Leatrice Eiseman, "there is a move toward the cooler and softer side of the color spectrum" coming in the next year.

Consumers can expect an "eclectic, ethereal mix of understated brights, pale pastels and nature-like neutrals."

The 16 colors to be on the lookout for in 2015 include: Aquamarine, Scuba Blue, Lucite Green, Classic Blue, Toasted Almond, Strawberry Ice, Tangerine, Custard, Marsala, Glacier Gray, Dusk Blue, Treetop, Woodbine, Sandstone, Titanium and Lavender Herb.

Eiseman said these colors will help restore consumers' sense of wellbeing and bring back memories of "retro delights, folkloric and floral art and the magic worlds of tropical landscapes."

Source: *Wisconsin Ornamentals, September 8, 2014*

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## Master Gardener Volunteer Profile

-- Mary Collet --

by Mary Collet, MGV

Heirloom Vegetable Gardening at Schumacher Farm  
Community Service, Good Food, and Fun!

This fall, as I put the garden to bed for the winter, I will be completing my 4-year volunteer "tenure" as the lead vegetable gardener at Schumacher Farm Park in Waunakee. It has been a rewarding experience, but my knees and back tell me that it's time to move on to less strenuous work.

- Serving as lead vegetable gardener provides an excellent opportunity to fulfill community service hours for Master Gardener certification, provide food for your table, and meet fellow garden enthusiasts. This volunteer job entails:
  - Making the garden plan
  - Purchasing seed and other supplies (reimbursed)
  - Working with Waunakee H.S. students (to start plants in the H.S. greenhouse) (optional)
  - Planting seed and bedding plants\*
  - Maintaining garden plots\*
  - Coordinating volunteer team
  - Presenting workshop(s) related to gardening (optional)
  - Harvesting food for your own use and Waunakee Food Pantry\*



**\* With lots of help from fellow volunteers**



As you can see, this is not a one-person effort. Three years ago, I initiated the Adopt-a-Row program, designed to lure volunteers into helping in the garden in exchange for produce. Most of the people who answered that call still work in the garden, and no doubt will continue to do

so.

I have compiled records of garden plans and information on growing crops gleaned from my own experience and workshops. I am also happy to act as a "consultant."



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





## 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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