DECEMBER 2014



Quote of the Month

"I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.

'We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,'
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December."

- Oliver Herford, I Heard a Bird Sing

Past President's Message By Catherine Murray

Greetings!

I wanted to let you know that I have resigned my role as MAMGA Board President due to increased work demands. I will remain a Board member until the end of my term in March 2015. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve on the Board and I have truly enjoyed being able to meet and learn from so many of you over the years. Ed Meachen, former President-Elect, has assumed the role of President. He and the Board are working hard to ensure that MAMGA will continue to grow and strengthen in its mission and service to the members.

I wish you warmth and wellness this winter season and look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting in March!

Catherine

President's Message By Ed Meachen

As the new president of the Madison Area Master Gardeners Association, I'd like to give you a preview of some of the 2015 programs we're planning for our members.

We are still early in the planning process, but we've already selected two dates you should mark in your calendars. MAMGA members are invited to a Saturday morning program on February 21st at the Extension building on Fen Oak. We will have an informal breakfast and a chance to get to know each other beginning at 9 a.m. with a program about Dane County Community Gardens to follow. This will be the first of four general membership programs we are planning for 2015. They will be fun opportunities for MAMGA members to get to know each other better, and to learn more about community, public and school gardens in our county.

We've also selected a date and a venue for our annual membership meeting. It will take place at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum on Saturday, March 28th. It's a beautiful place for a gardening meeting. There is still a lot of work to get done organizing this event, and we're looking for volunteers to help us. Please let me know if you're interested in volunteering to help. My email is willismeachen@gmail.com.

I am anxious to meet you, listen to ideas you may have about improving our organization, and sharing gardening stories. I think we will have fun in 2015!

Ed Meachen



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2013-14 MGV Hours Reporting **Form** 2015 MAMGA Membership Form 2015 Volunteer Interest Form

Calendar of **Events**

2014

December 2

Green Thumb Tuesday "Decadent December" Monona Gardens Restaurant See newsletter article

2015

January 6

Green Thumb Tuesday See Jan. newsletter for details

January 31

Beekeeping Class Extension Building 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. See newsletter article

February 3

Green Thumb Tuesday See Feb. newsletter for details

February 21

Breakfast & Community Garden Program Extension Building

Message from Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is in the process of updating the MAMGA email list. Beginning January 2015, only current members who have paid their dues will receive the monthly MAMGA newsletter. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2014-2015, please visit http://mamgawi.org/ to download the Membership Renewal Form.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your membership status or the renewal process, please email Percy Mather at percy.mather@gmail.com. Thank you!

The Extension Express



From Lisa Johnson Dane County UWEX Horticulture Educator

Teaching Garden

The Teaching Garden is almost ready for winter, which appears to have arrived a bit early. Diane Amundson, Joanne Brown and I removed the annuals from the colorwheel garden at the October 25th workday, and Diane was the lone volunteer to help me put up rabbit and vole fencing on November 8th. We didn't get it quite finished, so Joe and I will do it and we canceled the November 22 workday. Perennials from the north side got dug for the spring plant sale and heeled into the beds in the Children's Garden, so everything should be buttoned down for winter. Brrrr.

Programming Potpourri

The Master Gardener Volunteer graduation and recognition ceremony went very well! We had about 100 attendees and gave 29 awards ranging from MGVs reporting the most hours to Teaching Garden help, to farmers' market assistance, children's education work, UWEX Plant Sale help, PHA Horticulture Hotline work, MAMGA support work and other categories. Here are a few of the photos from the event; others will be posted on the MAMGA website.

Details to follow in future newsletter

February 28

Beekeeping Class
Extension Building
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
See newsletter article

March 21

Second Step Beekeeping Details to follow in future newsletter

March 28

Annual Membership Meeting UW Arboretum Watch for details next month

March 28

Beekeeping Class Extension Building 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. See newsletter article

April 11

Beekeeping Class Extension Building 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. See newsletter article

May 2

Beekeeping Class Extension Building 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. See newsletter article

July 31 - August 1

WIMGA Annual Conference LaCrosse

2016

September 17-18

Midwest Regional MG Conference Wisconsin Dells

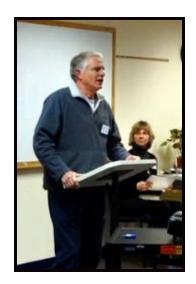
More Wisconsin Events

Also see "Events" column









Contact Info



MAMGA

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Email: mamgamail@yahoo.com
Website: www.mamgawi.org

MISSION

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

Board of Directors

Ed Meachen, President
Percy Mather - Secretary
Cathy Cryor Burgweger -

Treas

Aleta Murray - WIMGA Rep Lori Nelsen - Alternate Member

Lisa Johnson - Ex-officio Advisor Jon Daugherity

Steve Hoffland Bonnie Mitchell Dennis Tande Dana Warren

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Joan Fitzgerald, E-News Editor mgvjoan@gmail.com

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



MAILING ADDRESS

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dane.uwex.edu

CONTACTS

Lisa Johnson, Dane Co. UWEX



Hort Short

I want to put in another call for help with committees for the upcoming Farm Tech Days event in August of 2015. I need help planning the landscaping for the tents. Portage County MGVs had some square foot and raised bed gardens. They did a fantastic job with their containers and displays, and Dane County needs to be even better! I'd like to do some of the same raised beds, but add a pizza garden and I've purchased some wood frame patterns I need carpentry and painting help with. Anyone have a scroll saw? We also have some pallet gardens I will need painted. I need help designing educational materials for the event as well. If you'd like to get a better idea of the scope of the show, please visit http://danecofarmtech.com. I'll be sending out another email about this very soon. Here are some of the photos from the 2014 show in Portage.





Horticulture Educator

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Joe Muellenberg, Horticulture

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?

If you didn't receive one of our past e-newsletters, be sure to look in your "spam" or "junk"





Thank you!

Thanks to: Marilyn Sallee, Deb Pienkowski, Diane Amundson, Joanne Brown, Frankie Fuller, Mary Young, Linda Christen, Sandy Aebly, Jennifer Anderson, Betty Lou Knight, Barb Hill, Debbie Craig, Barb Klasinski, Connie Crenshaw, Dennis Tande, Jackie Winchester, Mary Collet, Mary Jane Kelley, Janie Starzewski and Sandy Klabunde.

Thank you for your work on the Graduation and Award Recognition Committee: Marilyn Sallee, Rosanne Horne, Deb Pienkowski, Cathy Spann, Mary Polancih, Suzy Bowditch, Barbara Klasinski, Lori Nelssen, Percy Mather, Steven Hoffland, Linda Christen, Joanne Woellner, Lynne M. Bendt, Jamie Murray-Branch. Additional Thank yous to: Kate Kemper, Ed Meacham, Joan Fitzgerald, Aleta Murray, and especialy Lisa Johnson and Joe Mullenberg.

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.



Green Thumb Tuesday ~~ a get-together for MGVs ~~

Join us on December 2, 2014 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Monona Gardens Restaurant 6501 Bridge Road, Madison

Topic: DECADENT DECEMBER

Come prepared to share your holiday decorating, craft and food ideas and practices!

Also, come prepared to try a terrific, tasty and tempting dessert buffet prepared by Monona Gardens. Asking for rsvp this time so they know how much to prepare.

Food and beverage from Monona Gardens menu; separate checks provided. No cost for the dessert at this event only.

This event is limited to 30 participants. RSVP no later than Friday, November 28. Call Dana Warren at (608) 833-5703 (leave message), or email djwarren5703@hotmail.com.

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

Beekeeping Classes 2015 Madison, WI

You are invited to attend one of our day long 'Beekeeping Classes' to be held at the Dane Co. Extension Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr, Madison, WI 53718. Beginners' classes will repeat on Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 28, April 11 and May 2, 2015.

Second Step Class is on March 21, 2015.

All classes run from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The fee of \$50 covers coffee, handouts, free sample journals, catalogues, and props galore for you to handle.

Individual, hands-on mentoring is also available, \$20 for 2 hours in the apiary. To register, contact Jeanne Hansen at 608-244-5094 or jeannie@yahoo.com.

Volunteering is self-fulfilling, an opportunity to make new friends and learn new things!!

Make 2015 your year to get involved!

MGV Hours Tracking

-- never too early to start -- from Marilyn Sallee, MGV

We are already two months into the hours accounting year for MGV recertification. Keeping track of the time you spend as a volunteer is crucial, both for you to recertify, and for Extension to receive funding and justify the program. Please take it seriously.

What a chore! What a headache! – no, it doesn't have to be! All you need is a plan. Get a system that works in place now and hours reporting in September is easy.

Are you analog or digital? Will a paper system work best for you or are you techno-savvy and use lots of apps? The key here is to find one fast and easy place to put the info and then to develop the habit of writing it down as it happens.

It could be a slip of paper you keep in your wallet or purse with your badge. It could be a cute tiny notebook in your glove compartment or a kitchen drawer, or a notation in your dayrunner, journal or calendar. The key is that it is the same place every time, takes only seconds to record and you do it immediately when you volunteer anywhere.

If you are on your smartphone or computer a lot, maybe that is the best place for you to keep your volunteer hours record. But it still should only take a few seconds to make the note - maybe in a Notebook App or Calendar App, or a word processing app. If you are on the computer several times a day, make an hours document there and update it every time you add info.

A few seconds right now will save you hours and lost volunteer time you forgot to report. So, right now, can you remember all the places you did MGV volunteer work since October 1st? It's only been two months. o you have a record? A system? Date-Time-Place-What you did. Now is the time to get it in place, write it down.



Garden Team Leader Madison Senior Center

Seeking a master gardener for planning, securing plants, and supervising working groups (access to lots of UW students). Work in conjunction with the volunteer coordinator to plan out yearly schedule and organize groups of workers to complete gardening projects. Work with Senior Center staff and volunteers to successfully maintain and improve our rooftop terrace and outside courtyard.

Let's make the Senior Center an urban floral destination in downtown Madison!

Job Location: 330 West Mifflin St., Madison

Opportunity Duration: Year round

Expected Time Commitment: Two hours/week on average

Contact Person: John Weichelt

Contact Phone Number: (608) 267-2344 Contact eMail: jweichtelt@cityofmadison.com

Website: http://www.cityofmadison.com/seniorCenter/index.cfm

Brittingham Park Perennial Gardens

HELP WANTED - For the 2015 Season maintaining existing perennial gardens located in the Brittingham Park Neighborhood.

Please call Marlene for additional information on the location and time requirements. 608-347-3240

MAMGA Annual Meeting Team

Would you like to help plan the 2015 MAMGA Annual Meeting?

This is a great opportunity to work with experienced volunteers to plan one of most popular events of the year. Help is needed to choose the menu, contact potential speakers, create table and room decorations, solicit door prizes and more. The event is held in March but we need to get started on some of the plans soon - as the garden season ends, planning for spring begins!

If interested contact Ed Meachen at willismeachen@gmail.com.

MAMGA Membership Committee

Here are survey results that are directly related to functions of the Membership Committee:

- 60% of members surveyed are interested in monthly membership meetings with an educational speaker.
 Volunteers to organize speakers and meeting locations are needed to start providing this opportunity. Do you have ideas for this?
- 89% of members surveyed like the discounts at area nurseries and businesses. Members often recoup the annual cost of MAMGA membership in just one or two shopping trips! Would you like to help make these contacts?

Want to know more? The Membership Committee also needs help to distribute the results of the survey!

Send an email to lnfo@mamgawi.org if you are interested in participating.

Schumacher Farm Park

Schumacher Farm Park is looking for a lead gardener for the heirloom vegetable garden, a great way to earn Master Gardener community service hours! See the September 2014 issue of Madison Area Master Gardeners Update for details.

Contact Diane Schwartz, site coordinator, at (608) 849-4559, info@schumacherfarmpark.org.

Generations Park Trail

Generations Park is in need of a group of volunteers to help put in a trail. We have wood chips on site. Volunteers would need to bring their own tools to clear the area of brush and small trees.

We will meet at Generations Park, 5640 Twin Lane Road, Marshall at 10:00 a.m. until noon. The date will be January 10, 2015, with bad weather, snow, fog etc. we will cancel the park date.

If you have questions please contact me at ipowelka@chorus.net or call at 608-837-6308.

Thank you.



Garden Reflections

by Joan Fitzgerald, MGV, PHA



Season's Greetings Everyone!

This is the time of the year that a lot of us are marveling at how quickly 2014 has gone. I am one of those people. It seems that time goes even more quickly now that I'm retired.

I've completed all my outdoor gardening tasks early this fall by heeding the weather reports we were hearing. All my flower pots are snugly placed in the garage; my hose is disconnected and most of my yard art is put away until spring.

I've never been a big fan of winter, but the older I get the more Is appreciate the "winter break." I need time to concentrate on other things, such as inside my house, and the winter has become that time.

I hope you can take some time to slow down and enjoy the

winter break. May the holiday season fill your homes with good smells, bright lights and lots of love.

Happy Holidays!

Joan

Plant of the Month

-- Japanese Maple --

By Jackie Winchester, MGV

Japanese maple (Acer palmatum var. dissectum) is a small, round, mound-forming, deciduous tree that is an excellent



garden plant which has finely cut showy foliage, arching shoots, and a golden autumn color. Japanese maples have tiny reddish purple flowers which are followed by winged fruit. They are attractive specimens for small gardens and can also be grown in large containers or used for bonsai. Typically, they will reach 6 to 10 feet in

height with a 6 to 10 foot spread.

Japanese maples prefer fertile, moist but well-drained soil in either sun or part shade. They should be pruned in late fall to mid-winter when dormant.

Japanese maples can be propagated by grafting in late winter

or sowing seed in containers outdoors.

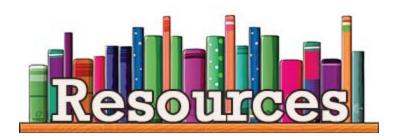
Maples are prone to aphids, scale insects, and caterpillars. Other problems include verticillium wilt, tar spot, and other leaf spots and root rots. Also, late frosts can damage foliage in early spring as they are sensitive to frost.



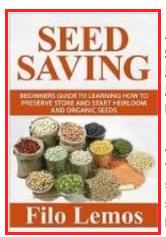
Gardening Tip

To reduce potentially slippery hazards, use organic kitty litter as an alternative to salt. Since salt can wash into your flower beds and sterilize the soil, non-chemical kitty litter will provide traction without being hazardous to nearby plantings. Look for kitty litter that contains vermiculite or pumice. As an added benefit, staying on paths or sidewalks keeps you out of the soggy soil.





From the Bookshelf



Seed Saving: Beginners
Guide to Learning How to
Preserve, Store and Start
Heirloom and Organic Seeds
by Filo Lemos

At one point or another people start to realize that it's time to start saving their own seeds. Raising seed is extremely gratifying. The best part of all is sharing the harvest. Healthy plants come from

healthy seed. It's the miracle of life.



Snippets . . .

Wait to Cut Back Flower Stalks: Leave seedheads standing in the garden over the winter. The dried seedheads of flowering perennials like black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia) and purple coneflower (Echinacea) are Mother Nature's birdfeeders. Colorful black and yellow goldfinches and other seed-eaters will happily dine on the seeds of these and other flowers, including sunflowers, cosmos, zinnias, asters, goldenrod and ornamental grasses.

Choose Plants with Persistent Fruits: Plants with fruits that persist through the winter will feed birds during the winter and help nourish migrant birds returning in early spring when other food sources are still scarce. Some widely adapted plants with berries that persist into the winter include crabapple, snowberry (Symphoricarpos), American bittersweet (avoid invasive Oriental bittersweet), sumac, viburnum species such as nannyberry (V. lentago), arrowwood (V.dentatum) and blackhaw (V. prunifolium), chokeberry (Aronia), beautyberry (Callicarpa), bayberry, Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia) and deciduous and evergreen hollies (Ilex species).

Plant Evergreens for Food and Cover: Be sure to include evergreens in your landscape to offer food and shelter to feathered visitors when the cold winds of winter blow. Evergreens not only provide birds with a respite from the weather, but offer safety from predators, as well as nesting spots during the warm months. And many evergreens are also a source of avian food. Seeds in the cones of spruce, fir, pines and hemlocks are relished by birds such as grosbeaks, titmice, juncos and goldfinches, while juniper berries attract fruit eaters like cedar waxwings.

Master Gardener Volunteer Profile

- - Ed Meachen - -

by Mary Collet

Ed Meachen brings a wealth of experience in managing both plants and people to his new position as president of the MAMGA board. Originally from South Dakota, Ed grew backyard gardens in Chicago and Cleveland before moving to



Wisconsin. The opportunity to indulge his love of the outdoors expanded greatly when he purchased 20 acres of land in Racine County near Union Grove. He removed a large above-ground pool, created a pie-shaped garden plot, and planted different vegetables in each segment. He also planted seven apple trees, a harbinger of his passion for

orchards.

On his current property, some 40 acres of converted cornfields between Stoughton and Oregon, Ed has nine varieties of apple trees as well as peaches, plums, apricots, cherries, and a fig. Not to mention 100 other trees plus berry bushes and perennial and vegetable beds! Inspired by a visit to Provence in southeastern France, he lined the long driveway to his house with trees. Ed quotes Peter Mayle as saying that it takes 100 years to have a "finished" garden.

Ed has plenty of people experience as well. After earning a Ph.D. in history from Emory University in 1976, he went on to earn a degree in Library Science from the University of Chicago in 1983 and took a position as Library Director at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. He worked with both public and private college and university libraries, partnered with the Illinois Library Association, and ensured that books would be delivered from one library to another within 2 days. In 1990, he became Technology Library Director at UW Parkside. He landed up in Madison in 1997 as Associate Vice President of Learning and Information Technology for the UW System. He made a point to visit each UW campus and brought the CIOs together in working on technological issues. Having retired in 2012, he feels that he is in a good position to transfer his management and leadership skills to MAMGA.

Last fall, Ed finished training as a Master Gardener, something he had wanted to do for years. Acknowledging that "many Master Gardeners know more than I do," he considers himself a "passionate gardener." He values MAMGA's close association with the Dane County UW Extension, especially since the Master Gardener program, unlike most, is not directly connected to the University. He feels strongly about MAMGA's mission in training Master Gardeners for tending gardens in the community and is ardent about promoting opportunities for community service. He plans to continue to serve on the Program Committee.

As president of the board, Ed's aspirations are in complete accord with the MAMGA's website description: "Dedicated gardeners promoting responsible gardening through education, volunteer service, and fellowship."

Schuster's Playtime Family Farm Tour

by Mary Jane Kelley, MGV

The well-known Wisconsin author Jerry Apps states "every farm has a story to tell." On a late September afternoon approximately 30 MAMGA members and guests ventured some



15 miles east of Madison to see and hear about an agritourism story the Schuster family members were happy to share. We heard about their unique farm

mission: to earn an income to support their family while caring for the land they love and enriching the community. Their wish that visitors to the farm experience the opportunity to return to the land and to our roots was evident.

We viewed the only remaining round barn in Dane County, took a hayride to the pumpkin patch, witnessed the force of the bright orange pumpkin canon blasting a pumpkin some 2500 feet into the air, took a walking tour amidst the flowers, and animals, and approximately 200 visiting Madison area children busy on the playground also enjoying the fresh country air.

Agritourism, though it has different definitions in various parts of the world, is defined most broadly as any agriculturally based operation or activity that brings visitors to a farm or ranch. In Italy, for instance, it refers specifically to farm stays. Elsewhere, it includes a wide variety of activities, including buying produce direct from a farm stand, navigating a corn maze, picking fruit, and feeding animals. (Most things are available on this farm.)

Schusters plant some 30 kinds of large and small gourds and pumpkins, hay, and asparagus. Some of the farmland is rented to another farmer who in addition grows field corn and soybeans.

Our tour ended with apple cider and a fresh pumpkin creation from the farm's bakery barn. Members voiced their appreciation to Schusters for this educational opportunity and friendly hospitality.

This special farm has a great story to tell. INDEED!

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

2015 MAMGA Gardening Project Grants

Attention MAMGA Members: 2015 MAMGA Gardening Project Grant Applications are now being accepted for gardening/horticulture projects during the 2015 calendar year!

The purpose of these grants is to help support MAMGA members with their individual and organization-sponsored community gardening projects located within the Madison area. MAMGA Gardening Project Grants cannot be used to benefit individual home gardens or private businesses.

MAMGA Gardening Project Grants must support projects that follow the criteria below and include each heading as listed in bold. Individual grant applications may be up to but no more than \$500. Grant funds may be used for seeds, plants, fertilizer, mulch, tools, etc., but **not for paid labor**.

- 1. Name of person(s) applying for the grant The project must be managed and coordinated by a current MAMGA member(s). Students currently enrolled are not eligible to apply but can assist.
- 2. Title of the project
- 3. Location of the project
- **4. Contact person or person's names** Address, phone number, and e-mail address
- **5. Description of the project** Describe in detail what is to be done by the project and what will the grant funds be used

for? Provide a list of all persons, including volunteers, participating in the project. List a time line for the project including the completion date and describe the expected outcome of the project.

- **6. Community benefit** How will this project be a benefit to the community?
- **7. Education** How will this project increase individual and community knowledge about gardening/horticulture and promote the exchange of gardening-related ideas and information?
- **8. Community Participation** Collaboration with other groups is encouraged to maximize project effectiveness. Describe the other organizations involved in the project including schools, youth, neighborhoods, businesses. What will they contribute

in time and materials?

9. Budget – Must be realistic and well thought-out. Specific budget information must be detailed for the funds requested in the application. Applicants must use the attached Budget Sheet. Successful applicants must provide receipts upon request.

Funds not accounted for must be returned to MAMGA.

Applications should be no more than 2 pages in length (not including the budget sheet), double spaced. This is a competitive grant process so not all projects submitted for consideration may be funded. Each application will be reviewed carefully and applications meeting the largest number of project criteria will receive funding priority.

All applications must be postmarked by **January 14**, **2015**. Grant applicants will be notified by March 2, 2015. No late applications will be accepted. Applications may be sent either e-mailed

or mailed to the address below. Grant applications and details may be found on the MAMGA website and will be sent directly to all MAMGA members via e-mail.

Madison Area Master Gardeners Association PO Box 259318, Madison, WI 53725 www.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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